# Valley Voice

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## Visalia Showcases Native/Low-Water Plants in Demonstration Gardens

CATHERINE DOE

Two years before the drought compelled Governor Brown to declare a state emergency, Visalia was already ahead of the game, planning demonstration gardens to educate its residents about drought-resistant landscaping. Now the first of four of these gardens is ready to be part of the May 3rd Earth Day celebrations. Nathan Garza, Natural Resource Conservation technician, explained that these gardens are an example of how Visalia can keep the city looking beautiful during a drought and how homeowners can do the same.

*Nathan Garza at the St. John's Parkway Garden. The garden is one of four set up in the city to educate residents.*

The demonstration gardens are in the four quadrants of the city. The St. John's Parkway Garden, about a block from Target in the northeast quadrant, was finished a few days ago when the identifying plant nameplates were installed. Garza said that the gardens have two examples of each type of plant, such as deer grass, redbud or manzanita, and California lilac. The nameplates identify each species and explain how to care for it. The other three gardens should be done by this summer. They include the West Main Street Park, the Cherry Meadow Park close to Pinkham Street, and the garden in southwest Visalia at the Packwood Creek Trail by Lowe's.

Creating the gardens was a community-wide effort led by Visalia's Community Services Employment Training (CSET) and local high schools. Redwood High School's metal shop class made the iron nameplates for the two north gardens while El Diamante High School's made the nameplates for the south gardens. CSET did most of the planting. Many other organizations came together to make these gardens a reality and will also be part of Visalia's Earth Day celebrations.

Visalia's Earth Day Celebration is

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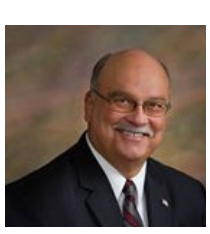
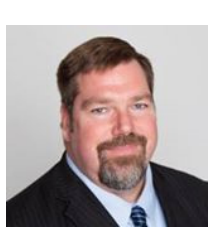
## DA, Sheriff Candidates Answer Questions at COS

TONY MALDONADO

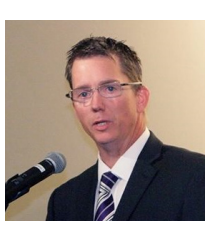
Candidates for Tulare County District Attorney and Tulare County Sheriff came together on Thursday, April 24 to take part in a forum at College of the Sequoias.



*Dave Whaley*



*Ralph Kaelble*



*Tim Ward*

*Mike Boudreaux*

The forum, sponsored by the ACLU of Northern California and the College of the Sequoias Young Democrats, drew approximately 150 people, filling the college's large Ponderosa Lecture Hall. COS instructor and Young Democrats adviser Steve Natoli served as moderator.

Candidates for sheriff, acting Sheriff Mike Boudreaux and Dave Whaley, took the stage first. They came out with similar positions on many of the issues they were asked about – including ensuring civilian oversight of law enforcement, using restorative justice techniques for juvenile offenders, compliance with the California Trust Act, increasing access to drug treatment for low-level offenders – trading barbs and differentiating themselves only at the end of their section of the debate.

"I believe that the future rests with someone who is fresh, innovative, and has exciting ideas for the future, who has the backing of the men and women of this department," Boudreaux said. "I believe that I'm the future of this department, and the future of the county."

"I know there's a problem at the sheriff's department. I get calls every day – all you have to do is talk to some individuals that work there," Whaley countered. "I want to go back to good public service. When you call the sheriff's department and request a deputy, you'll get a deputy."

Tulare County District Attorney candidates Ralph Kaelble and Tim Ward came second, also sharing stances on most issues they were asked about.

Both touted their achievements at the Tulare County District Attorney's office.

**SEE THE ENTIRE FORUM OURVALLEYVOICE.COM**

*Tulare County District Attorney Tim Ward (right) and his challenger, former Tulare County prosecutor Ralph Kaelble, at the April 23rd candidates forum hosted by the Rotary Club of Visalia. Photo by David Miller.*

## Tulare County District Attorney Candidates Debate at Rotary Club Forum

STEVE PASTIS

Tulare County District Attorney Tim Ward and Tulare County District Attorney candidate Ralph Kaelble shared their opinions and answered questions at a candidates' forum at the April 23rd meeting of the Rotary Club of Visalia. Paul Hurley served as moderator and Rotary Club members provided the questions.

The candidates started off by introducing themselves and talking about their qualifications. Kaelble noted that his wife, also an attorney, told him he could pursue his career anywhere as long as it was in California, "because she wasn't going to take another bar exam."

Kaelble said that for district attorney, people in Tulare County "deserve someone who is honest, someone who is passionate about the job." He addressed the endorsements that top management in the district attorney's office have given to his opponent, the current district attorney. "That's the way the office is run," he said. "You have to. You don't have a choice."

Ward described himself as "a veteran" of his office, adding he was "a veteran before I even came to this office." He noted that he was selected for the office with the support of his predecessor, Phil Cline. "We have a high conviction rate and morale is high," he added.

In response to Kaelble's comment about people in the district attorney's office having no choice in supporting his candidacy, Ward said, "If you think they signed something they didn't want to sign, take the time to talk to some of those who are here today."

The first question presented to the candidates was about their priorities as district attorney. Ward responded by talking about the responsibility to make sure those in his office have the resources to do their jobs. "I took over

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## Final Environmental Document for South Valley High-Speed Rail Section Ready for Board Action

STAFF REPORTS

The California High-Speed Rail Authority and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) have announced the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Fresno-to-Bakersfield project section of the California High-Speed Rail project. The Final EIR/EIS represents a comprehensive, project-level review of the section that runs approximately 114 miles from downtown Fresno to downtown Bakersfield, with proposed stations in the Kings-Tulare County region and Bakersfield to go with a Fresno station location approved in 2012.

The Final EIR/EIS identifies the preferred alternative as parts of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe alternative (BNSF), the Corcoran Bypass alternative, the Allensworth Bypass alternative and the Bakersfield Hybrid alternative. Proposed stations include the east of Hanford/west of Visalia station option located near State Route 198.

The Kings/Tulare Regional Station is one of the few stations in the California HSR System not proposed in a downtown urban area. The two alternative sites for this station were selected to serve residents in the Lemoore/Hanford, Visalia and Tulare areas. The Kings/Tulare Regional Station–East Alternative is immediately east of the city of Hanford's

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

# DWTS

During our last layout session, flummoxed by too many bunny images with which to festoon the masthead in honor of Easter, I decided--in my indecision--to go with something completely different: An Easter Island moai. This set our associate editor to chuckling. "What'll you put on the May first issue," he asked-- "a hammer and sickle?"

"I was thinking," I replied, "something along the lines of an S.O.S. signal." But the many intersections of May Day-- the traditional spring festival, complete with pole; the internationally recognized distress signal, spelled as a single word but always repeated thrice; the 1886 day from which, in 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions (later the Industrial Workers of the World, better known as the IWW, or Wobblies) declared, henceforth, an eight-hour work day--set me to thinking about how we're going to rescue our economy.

Because we've already got the pole.

We have experimented on a personal level, with the Bush Tax Rebate, and on an institutional level with TARP--the massive banking, insurance and auto industry bailout. Further suggestions have been legion: increase the minimum wage; invest in or maintain better our infrastructure; tax breaks; scale back military spending. But our divisions are now more stark than ever, since the Civil War, and we're sliding uncomfortably close to a service economy. Still, I'm sure we can do better than to subsidize Walmart.

Let's take a phrase from the Republican playbook--"rugged individualism"--and begin, each of us, with ourselves. The answer is DWTS. Not Dancing With the Stars--that's too silly to contemplate; not, either, Down With the Ship--which recent maritime disasters have confirmed as outmoded. No, DWTS must mean Don't Waste Time Sighing. Or Shirking. It must mean that we all take personal responsibility, especially when it is onerous to do so. I'm not at all happy with the Federal Income Tax. I think it's theft--but it remains my responsibility to pay it. I wouldn't be a rugged individualist if I refused to pony up the money. I'd be a criminal.

Like Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy.

Here we have a caricature of a citizen--no patriot, certainly--but a man who considers himself to be sovereign unto himself. In other words, a "sovereign citizen"--someone who refuses to recognize government at any level above his county sheriff. Of course this is laughable. Bundy, who has been embroiled with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) over nonpayment of twenty years' grazing fees amounting to more than $1 million, has been quoted of late declaring his doubt that the federal government even exists. Please. Who does he suppose the federal government is if it's not "we the people?" Whose land does he suppose he was using, lo these twenty years? It is not government over-reach when the government, naturally enough, seeks to collect what is owed it. And we're talking more than a $1 million here. The BLM sought to seize more than 350 head of Bundy's cattle, but sensibly stood down when hundreds of his armed supporters forestalled the effort. This was not a victory for the sovereign citizens--it was a wise avoidance of gun violence on the BLM's part. Nobody wants another Waco.

But this is chilling. Sovereign citizens put the numb in the phrase "e pluribus unum." They represent, in fact, its complete antithesis. For the United States, the Latin translates as "out of many, one." For sovereign citizens it means more like "one out of many." Can there be any doubt who the "one" is? Think the "Me Generation," whichever demographic you care to ascribe that to--only include firearms.

In "Absolutely Sweet Marie," Bob Dylan wrote, "But to live outside the law, you must be honest." I've always taken this to mean not that there is honor among thieves, but that, if you don't want to end up in the belly of the legal beast, your best policy is honesty. And these sovereign citizens are not honest people. If the BLM was somehow clamoring to return $1 million to Bundy--in, say, compound overcharges as the result of an ongoing, twenty-year clerical error--do you honestly think he'd not recognize the money? Well, maybe he'd have to consult the Clark County Sheriff first. Maybe down there he doesn't use the United States Dollar. Clark County is, after all, home to Las Vegas. Maybe he just uses casino chips. And maybe he carries these chips on his shoulder.

Like the far right, which--shooting from the hip, of course--was a quick-draw in embracing Bundy as a hero. Until he revealed himself as an utter racist by uttering comments about "the Negro." Bundy questioned whether "the Negro" were not better off, previously, as actual slaves--as opposed to the present, as slaves of government subsidies.

Sigh. What about not recognizing the government? He clearly doesn't recognize that, by not paying his grazing fees for twenty years, we all have for that time been subsidizing him. Still, there should never have been an armed stand-off. The government Bundy doesn't recognize has better methods than any at gunpoint to achieve its aims. It certainly can't aim any guns at Vladimir Putin in its displeasure over his behavior in Ukraine. But our government can sanction Putin--and it sure as shootin' can sanction entire echelons of sovereign citizens. Let's see what happens when, not seizing their assets, the federal government simply freezes their bank accounts. Talk about the chips being down!

*— Joseph Oldenbourg*

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# POLITICAL FIX

CATHERINE DOE

## DECODING CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Why is Porterville having its city council election in June instead of November like everyone else? Well, according to Juan Duran, they don't really know. Mr. Duran, one of the candidates himself and president of Centro Mexicano American Latino, said, "The city council election used to be in November, but a few years ago they voted to change it. About three months ago, they went around in circles arguing to put it back to November."

Just as strange, Visalia City Council used to hold their election in odd years when nothing else was on the ballot. In 2013, there was a whopping 11% voter turnout. The city was forced to change to even years, like the rest of the civilized world, after being sued to hold by-district elections. Seeing as Visalia just had its city council election, there won't be another one until 2016.

The cities of Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Tulare and Woodlake will hold their city council elections during the November general election. Lucky for Dinuba, they are on the ballot in June because of a recall vote. If the current council member--Janet Hinesly--is recalled, the Reverend Nate Mendoza will take her place.

Back to Porterville, where there nine candidates for city council are running for two seats. If that sounds like a lot, then consider Fresno's race for District 1, where nine candidates are running for just one seat. Incumbent Xiong Blong has decided not to defend his seat, but instead to try his hand at running for Fresno County Supervisor. The lack of an incumbent for the district has created a sort of free-for -all.

The Porterville race has a similar situation. Incumbent Gary Shelton has decided not to defend his city council seat , but to try to unseat Mike Ennis on the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, District 5. That leaves one incumbent, Pete McCracken, running to defend his seat and one seat open. So who is the favorite to win that open seat? The *Valley Voice* just reports on elections and does not endorse, but this is Porterville.

My favorite is Mr. Duran; first, because I do not know any of the other candidates, and; second, because he is nice. He speaks with such enthusiasm when talking about Porterville, where he has lived for the last fifty years. "I want to see some honesty. I am sick and tired of all the politics. With these local offices, people run to decorate their resume instead of serving the people. I have nothing to lose running for the city council. I'm retired. We need to have citizens in office who are honest and sincere and doing it for the people because they are the taxpayers."

## CHANNELING YOUR INNER REPUBLICAN

Our State Assembly Representative, Connie Conway, was fond of saying she encourages Governor Jerry Brown to channel his inner Republican. Well, she must have been successful as Gov. Brown has put forth a fiscally conservative amendment to the state constitution.

Gov. Brown's plan is to require the state to set aside money earned from volatile investments, such as those in the stock market, in flush years for use later during lean times. It's a pretty basic concept, conceived around the time humans evolved from hunting and gathering to living in communities: put your surplus grain in storage during a good harvest, so that during a bad harvest you'll still have food.

Both Assembly Member Conway and Republican Gubernatorial candidate Neel Kashkari are supporting the amendment. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Mr. Kashkari said Gov. Brown's plan is "a small incremental step in the right direction." He urged Republican lawmakers to approve it without insisting on adjustments.

Ms. Conway said, "Enacting a rainy day fund should be an important priority this year. By saving unexpected tax windfalls in good budget years like this one, we can ease the pain in tough budget years in the future and protect priorities like education and public safety from devastating cuts." She also pointed out that Gov. Brown will need Republican votes because he is pushing a constitutional amendment that requires the votes of two-thirds of the state lawmakers.

## THIS TIME, IT'S A REPUBLICAN

The California State Senate is certainly on a roll, and this time it's a Republican. Only a day after Sen. Darrell Steinberg hosted an ethics workshop for his fellow senators, the state's Fair Political Practices Committee unanimously fined Sen. Tom Berryhill $40,000 for the money-laundering of campaign funds. Sen. Berryhill was charged with committing "serious and deliberate" violations of campaign finance rules.

Sen. Berryhill now is the fourth senator in a line of ethics violators among the senators.

Senator Leland Yee is under indictment for trading his legislative influence for organized crime dollars to pay off campaign debts. Senator Ron Calderon is accused of taking bribes to sway votes on workers' compensation. Senator Rod Wright has been convicted of perjury and voter fraud.

## CARLTON JONES AND RUBEN MACARENO SPAR ON DEMOCRATIC ENDORSEMENT

Tulare Vice Mayor Carlton Jones said he refused the Democratic Party's endorsement for his bid for the 26th Assembly District seat because he didn't want to accept the party's platform.

According to the *Tulare Voice*, Central Valley leaders from both parties need to sit down and hammer out "our platform," Jones told the Tulare Chamber of Commerce's Governmental Affairs Committee.

"A lot of good bills for our areas get put aside because of the Democrat/Republican thing," Mr. Jones said.

According to Ruben Macareno, chairman of Tulare County Democratic Party, "The truth is Mr. Jones and his team actively sought the local and state Democratic Party endorsements. For the state endorsement, both Jones and I paid the necessary fees to participate. Only Derek Thomas Sr., the other Democratic candidate, did not seek the endorsement. In February, Jones lost the endorsement count in Palmdale 16-10. Then in March, Jones and his team drove to Los Angeles to cast their votes at the state convention for endorsement. The vote was deadlocked and so no one secured the endorsement. So, how can he "refuse" something he sought? Furthermore, Democratic Party endorsements are not offered but earned."

Louie Campos, Visalia Democratic Club president responded with, "Mr. Macareno is correct, but in that deadlocked vote Mr. Jones garnered more votes than Macareno."

## KAELBLE AND WARD RACK UP MORE ENDORSEMENTS

It's hard to knock off an incumbent, even when that incumbent was appointed, but Ralph Kaelble, candidate for Tulare County District Attorney, has put up quite a fight. Last week, the Porterville Peace Officers' Association (PPOA) voted to endorse Mr. Kaelble for Tulare County District Attorney, following a presentation and interview process that included the current District Attorney, Tim Ward.

"We are pleased to announce our endorsement of Ralph F. Kaelble for Tulare County District Attorney in the June 3, 2014 election. The membership overwhelmingly voted to support Ralph due to his proven leadership skills, his passion for the position, and his vision for the future. We believe he is the best candidate and wholeheartedly support him," said Aaron Sutherland, association president.

The Kern Law Enforcement Association (KLEA) also announced its endorsement of Mr. Kaelble. This is another key endorsement, as there are times when crimes occur across county lines and the Tulare County District Attorney must work with Kern County law enforcement to successfully prosecute such cases.

Mr. Ward just received the endorsement of the Deputy District Attorneys of the Office of the District Attorney. According to their letter, "We wholeheartedly support and endorse Tim Ward as our District Attorney. Tim has the vision and insight to continue to lead the Office of the District Attorney into the future. Under Tim Ward's leadership, the attorneys of our office have been given the support, training and encouragement to achieve justice for victims. As our District Attorney, Tim effectively restructured the Office in a way that will obtain maximum efficiency and effectiveness while maintaining the highest standard of professionalism and integrity. Tim created a Crimes Against Children position, enhanced the Violence Against Women division, which now includes a dedicated prosecutor assigned to Domestic Violence Homicides, and is fully committed to continuing aggressive prosecution of gang violence and agriculture crimes. Tim has also taken steps to modernize the Office. He has developed and implemented technological advances to increase our internal efficiency."

## ASSEMBLY HOPEFUL HOLDS A DINNER/FUNDRAISER

State Assembly hopeful Teresita "Tess" Andres is hosting a fundraising meet and greet dinner. The event will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Lucio, 5814 W. Elowin Dr. in Visalia on Sunday, May 18th from 4-7pm.

Ms. Andres is one of four Republicans running for the 26th District state assembly seat currently held by Assembly Woman Connie Conway. Ms. Andres was born and raised in Butuan City, in the province of Agusan del Norte, on Mindanao in the Philippines. She is a naturalized citizen and has lived in Visalia with her husband for twelve years. While in the Philippines, she worked in the office of the Executive Secretary to President Fidel Ramos, who was in office from 1992-1998. During Ms. Andres' world travels she met many international dignitaries and has had the life experiences to "be an effective instrument in helping District 26."

According to her website, she will be the first COS student to have run for this office. "I enjoy being a lifelong learner, with various certifications, ranging from emergency medical technician to public notary. My experience as a student is instrumental in this race to Sacramento." She wants to serve in the state assembly because of her desire to give back to the community and share her experiences as a dedicated public servant.

## ANOTHER RACE TO THE BOTTOM

In an exercise in sheer futility, the two front-runners in the governor's race behind Gov. Brown are slugging it out for second place. Tim Donnelly and Neel Kashkari should be the two Republican front-runners, but the only electable candidate on that ticket, Neel Kashkari, is currently experiencing a downward spiral.

Mr. Kashkari, who has pretty much staked his bid for governor on his experience as a federal budget bailout czar, was criticized by Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren. She accused him of lying to her in her new book, *A Fighting Chance*, when he led the taxpayer-funded federal bank bailout.

It gets worse.

A public opinion research firm just

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## Q&A: INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES FOR STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 26

# Devon Mathis

### WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

I am running because I believe in a better California for us and our children, a California that is great. I have seen what has happened to our once great state and it is a shame. I did not enter this race until the last day. I looked at who was running and believe that I am better qualified, better suited and that I will represent the people better.

### HOW WOULD YOU WORK WITH A STRONG DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY AT THE STATE LEVEL?

Throughout my life I have built relationships, networks and coalitions to get things done. I was taught that everyone is in green and we all bleed red. When working with people from different backgrounds and cultures, which is what party lines truly are, everyone on the legislature is going to have different ideas and viewpoints. I have the leadership ability to work across the aisle with anyone. I believe in open door and open door policy and I am not afraid to sit at the table with anyone. We have grown too strong with the divide of partisanships and must work together to build a better California, period. I believe that I will be able to follow the footsteps of President Ronald Reagan and even President Bill Clinton, they both worked with political opponents to confront the challenges facing the nation and created bipartisan solutions. Reagan worked with a Democratic Congress to pass comprehensive tax reforms. I believe I can do the same here in California. It is simple – it is not about me, it is about doing what is right for the people, period.

### HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENT FROM OTHER REPUBLICANS?

I stand apart in this race as the war veteran who then went to college and got a BA in Public Administration. I was raised here in the Valley and grew up a country boy. I was raised with simple core values and beliefs. "Your word is your bond." "If you say you are going to do something, you do it." "If you are going to do something, do it right the first time, do not cut corners." I was raised a patriot. I know what hard work is, and I know what it is like to hit rock bottom and have nothing. I believe I am the only candidate that has had the lives of others depend on their decisions. I know the difference between leadership and likership, I know how to swallow my pride and work with others to get things done.

*Devon Mathis*

### WHO WILL YOU SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR?

The governor's race is simple. While at the California Republican Party convention in Burlingame a few months back, I met Tim Donnelly. I met a few of the other candidates too, but Tim showed me respect and gave me his time of day, which shows a lot. I had a few very good conversations with him, he gave me a few pointers. "Thank you Tim." He is a person who has common sense like me and he is willing to listen to people, that shows true leadership. From what I saw, he made time to talk to anyone who wanted his ear. The others seemed to have their own agendas, Tim was there for the people. I believe we need a governor who is for the people and not for an agenda.

### WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON GUNS?

When do you want to go shoot? "This is my weapon, this my gun, this one's for fighting, this one's for fun," – Full Metal Jacket. Guns are not the problem, it is the people behind them, people are the problem. Cars do not kill people in crashes, bad drivers do. I teach my boys weapons safety with Nerf guns so that they know how dangerous they can be. One of my favorite quotes in regards to the matter is, "You cannot invade the mainland United States. There would be a rifle behind each blade of grass." Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. Coming from the Army National Guard, I believe that we should uphold to our second amendment rights and that the idea of creating a list pushes us even farther down the slippery slope to taking away our personal rights and freedoms.

### THE ACA WILL NOT COVER UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS?

Do people need medical coverage? That is an easy yes, the hard part is who pays for it. The ACA or Obamacare sets tax penalties onto those who do not get a plan. Can you set a tax penalty on someone who is undocumented? No you cannot. Our people and businesses are bearing the brunt of Obamacare. I believe we need to take care of our citizens first and foremost. If people want to have the benefits of being an American citizen, then they need to follow the steps to do so. Yes, our country is great because we are the great melting pot of the world and we take immigrants from around the world, but they became Americans. In order to pursue the American Dream you first need to become an American.

### WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON FRACKING?

I am not against it, however at this time and based on the current research, Fracking is a poor choice for our Valley and our state, as it produces extreme amounts of waste-water which cannot be treated through current water treatment facilities. Until further research and better practices are set into place, it is of too high a risk and will waste the much needed water that our industries and our people require. We need potable water not waste-water.

### WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE WATER BOND INITIATIVE?

Is there ever enough water? The answer to that is no, so how much is too much? There is never too much when it comes to water. When you hear that phrase, "Water is the element of life," it truly is just that. We use water for everything from drinking to irrigation all the way to using it in our power plants. Bottom line is that California's water infrastructure is horribly outdated. As to what should be in a water bond, our current legislators are still arguing over who is going to have the better idea. We should have passed the Water Bond in 2010. If we had, maybe then we would not be in the mess we are in now, and instead we would have built and stored the water versus hurting for it. As far as what should be in a water bond, I believe we should consult the experts, the Association of California Water Agencies. Their list has groundwater cleanup, safe drinking water, watershed protection, resources development projects including Integrated Regional Management programs.

### WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL?

I feel that we should spend that money on fixing our outdated roads, bridges and water infrastructure. A passenger train is not going to bring businesses back to our state; however, a solid infrastructure will. Providing well-paved roads for shipping and receiving, having enough water to maintain power plants so we do not have brownouts – those are the things our state needs. When those issues are addressed we will begin seeing jobs flooding back into the Valley.


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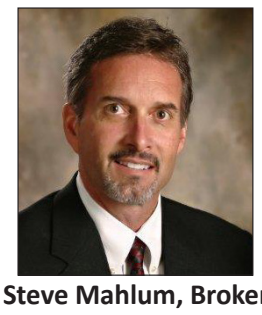

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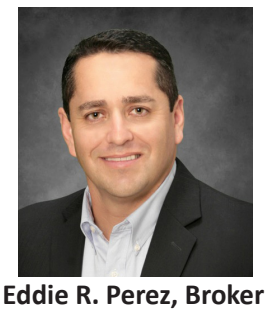

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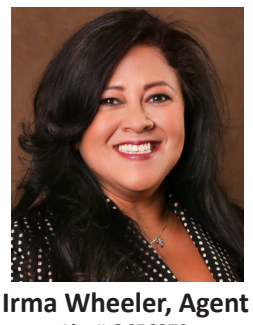

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# Events to Mark Mental Health Month

May has been designated as Mental Health Month in Tulare County.

"We know that mental health is integral to overall health," said Phil Cox, chairman of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. "People need to care for their mental health so they can respond to the stress of daily life and the challenges it presents."

Irma Rangel, chair of the Tulare County Mental Health Board added, "Just as community members have learned there are things they can do to reduce their risk of heart disease and chronic illnesses, we want to help people learn what they can do to protect their mental health in tough times and improve their mental wellbeing throughout their lives."

Maintaining mental health involves a balanced diet, regular exercise and sleep patterns, developing a sense of self-worth and coping skills that promote resiliency, emotional awareness, and connections to family, friends and the community. For some residents, moving toward wellness also involves the assistance of medical staff and counselors.

"Utilizing strategies to promote resiliency, with the goal of recovery from one's mental health condition while also decreasing reliance on alcohol and other illicit drugs, leads to improved general health and a healthier community," noted Dr. Timothy Durick, director of Mental Health for Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency.

Local Mental Health Awareness Month events include:

May 2 – "Expressions of Lived Experience" Art Show. The Arts Consortium My Voice Media Center, in collaboration with the Tulare County Department of Mental Health, will present an art reception from 5:30-8pm at The Arts Consortium, 400 N. Church St., Visalia, to kick-off their month-long art exhibition displaying pieces of artwork from individuals that depict expressions of lived experience.

May 3 - Porterville Cinco de Mayo Parade float. The Porterville Adult Mental Health Clinic and Youth Services will partner with South County One Stop Center, South County Mobile Unit, and the Crossroads Transitional Age Youth Housing program to participate in the Porterville Cinco de Mayo Parade in Downtown Porterville, which begins at 10am.

May 9 - Family Resource Centers Children's Art Show and Open House (in Spanish) will be held from 4-6:30pm at four Family Resource Centers: Woodlake (168 N. Valencia), Cutler-Orosi (40802 Road 128, Orosi), Earlimart (114 N. Front St.) and Lindsay (400 E. Hermosa St.). The centers will display children's artwork, host games and information booths, and conduct a mental health topic panel consisting of mental health providers and individuals with lived experience.

May 30 - Mental Health Awareness Night at the Rawhide Baseball Park, 300 N. Giddings St., Visalia. The Tulare County Department of Mental Health will collaborate with the Visalia Rawhide baseball organization to host this event at 7pm at a Rawhide home game. The Rawhide team will be wearing turquoise-colored jerseys in honor of the campaign, and the first 500 through the gate will receive a complimentary t-shirt.

# D.A. Decides Not to Pursue Fraud Complaint about Gun Raffle Odds

STEVE PASTIS

The Tulare County District Attorney's Office decided last week that a complaint made by an individual about the odds of winning in the gun raffle fundraiser conducted by the Friends of Mike Boudreaux election campaign did not merit criminal fraud charges.

"The Visalia Police Department received a written complaint from an individual and the Visalia Police Department did not have jurisdiction," said Assistant District Attorney Anthony Fultz. "It was not in the city of Visalia, so they submitted it to us. We determined there was no fraudulent activity based on that complaint."

"This reaffirms what we've been saying all along that we did everything by the book and that our gun raffle was and is legal," said Acting Sheriff Mike Boudreaux in a prepared statement. "This also reaffirms what we were told by the various state agencies we consulted with and our legal counsel. My campaign is focused on the issue of who is best equipped and most qualified to protect the people of Tulare County as their sheriff.

"I'm hoping we can move on and focus on real issues," Boudreaux later told the *Voice*. "I'm hoping the rest of the campaign focuses on the differences between the candidates."

He added, "We knew we were right." However, Dave Whaley, the other candidate for sheriff, disagrees.

"The acting sheriff continues to assert this campaign fundraising tactic was legal when it is clearly unlawful," responded Whaley in a letter to the *Voice* (see page 15). "All a fair minded person need do is visit the California Attorney General's website (frequently asked questions) and you find that Penal Code 320 makes it a misdemeanor to hold a raffle unless you are a charitable organization and exempted in P.C. 320.5.

"Our district attorney has chosen to declare a conflict on the raffle and refer it to the attorney general," Whaley also wrote. "Why would he choose now to even consider this victim's case of fraud submitted by Visalia Police Department? Shouldn't the district attorney have declared a conflict on that too?"

The complaint, however, was based on allegations of fraud about the odds of winning included on the gun raffle flier, according to Fultz, who added that no investigation was conducted, only "a review."

"We reviewed the material that was submitted to us." Fultz said. "That material made allegations that were based on the odds of winning. We did the math. The odds of winning were actually better than what was on the raffle flier. People who bought a ticket actually had a better chance of winning."

An estimated 2,600 tickets were sold and the gun raffle flier stated the odds were one in 500. There was a separate drawing for each of the 11 guns, resulting in the odds of winning being less than half of what was advertised – slightly over one in 236.

# Vote by Mail Ballots for June 3rd Election Available on May 5

STAFF REPORTS

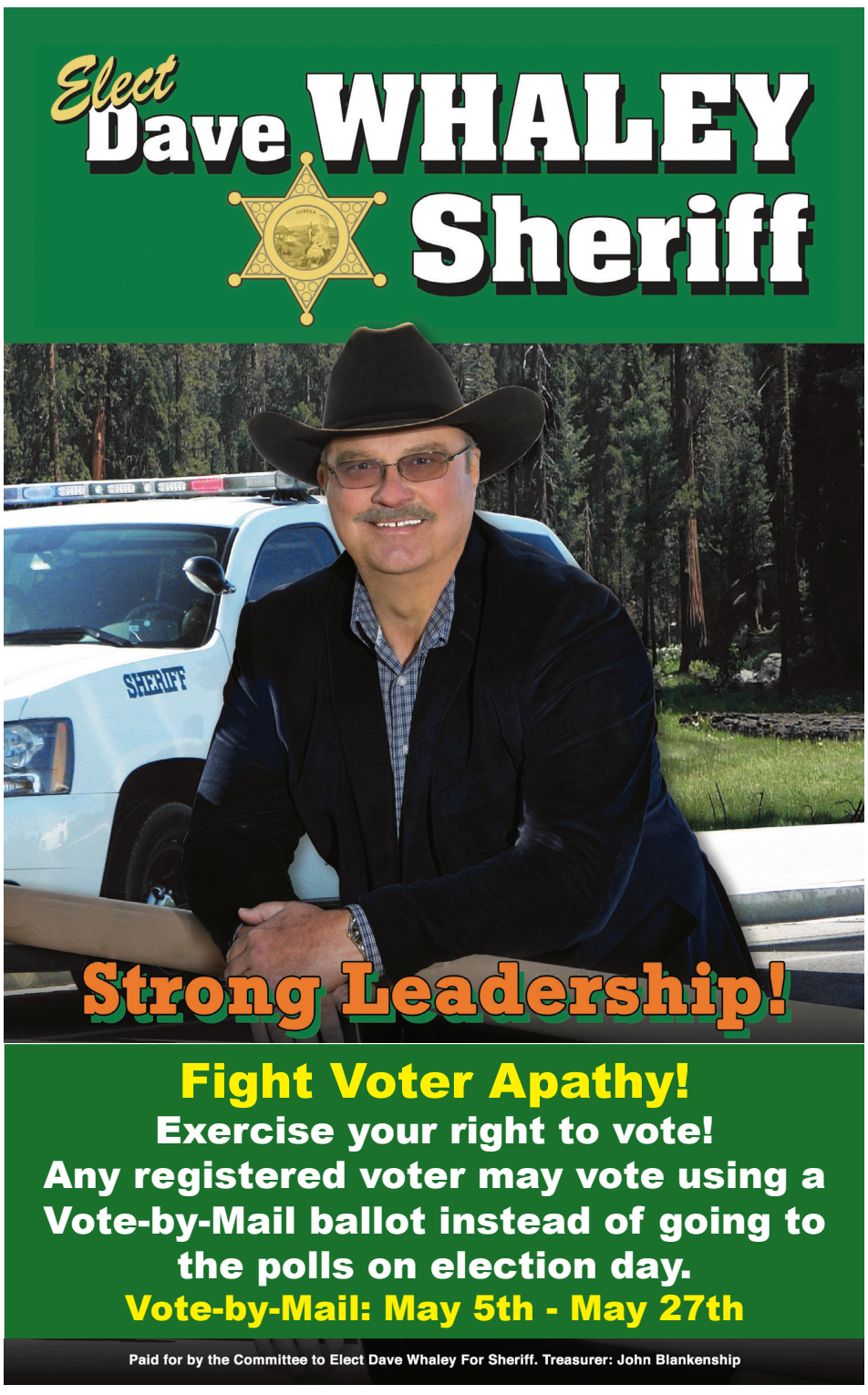
Tulare County Registrar of Voters Rita A. Woodard reminds all voters in the upcoming primary election that Vote by Mail ballots will be available beginning May 5. If you have not been using Vote by Mail, and want a Vote by Mail ballot mailed to you, the Registrar of Voters Office must receive your request by May 27.

Vote by Mail ballots must be received by the Registrar of Voters Office by 8pm on Election Day, June 3. Woodard recommends that you mail your ballot back by Wednesday, May 28. In order for your ballot to be counted you must include your signature on the return envelope.

Other ways to return a Vote by Mail ballot:

- There are now drive-through official drop boxes in front of Government Plaza and in the east parking lot at the Visalia Courthouse (by the rose garden).
- You can also return a Vote by Mail ballot in person during normal business hours, either at the Tulare County Registrar of Voters Office at the Government Plaza Building, 5951 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, or at the Tulare County Auditor's Office at the Visalia Courthouse, 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 101E, Visalia.
- On Election Day, you can also drop your completed Vote by Mail ballot off at any polling place in Tulare County.
- You can authorize a family member to drop off your Vote by Mail ballot for you, but in order for your ballot to count, your representative can only be one of the following: spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister or any person residing in the voter's home. Your representative can drop your ballot off at the Tulare County Registrar of Voters Office, the Tulare County Auditor's Office, either of the two official drop boxes, or any polling place on Election Day.

As per Elections Code 15101, the Registrar of Voters also hereby notifies all interested organizations that the verification of signatures on Vote by Mail ballots cast for the Primary Election will commence on May 5, in the Tulare County Registrar of Voters Office, 5951 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia. On May 23, or at any time thereafter, the opening, processing and central count accumulation of Vote by Mail ballots will commence. This process is open to observers and will continue until all election results are tabulated and the election is certified. To be an observer, call Ann Turner at 624-7300.




# California Women for Agriculture Annual Stampede Fundraiser Set for May 16th

STAFF REPORTS

The Tulare-Kings Chapter of the California Women for Agriculture's annual Stampede Fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 16 at the Historic Seven Sycamores Ranch in Ivanhoe. A hosted wine tasting and cheese social will begin at 6pm, followed by a barbecue dinner at 7pm, with special guest speaker Assembly Member Connie Conway and live entertainment by local band The Cadillac Cowboys.

The California Women for Agriculture (CWA) is a voluntary, non-profit organization of women dedicated to educating our communities and elected officials about agriculture. The Tulare-Kings Chapter awards over $5,000 in scholarships annually to local students pursuing careers in agriculture, provides grants for school garden programs, and participates in the Tulare County Fair to help educate elementary students about the importance of agriculture.

Individual tickets can be purchased for $40 per person, or $320 for a reserved table of eight. Sponsorship packages are available for $1,000, $500, and $250. Interested donors may contact Vice Chair Alyssa Houtby at 737-8899 or tularekingscwa@gmail.com for more information. Checks should be made out to Tulare-Kings CWA and mailed to P.O. Box 3812, Visalia, CA 93278.

# Fitch: Extreme California Drought Not Likely to Pressure Financial Ratings

STAFF REPORTS

Fitch Ratings expects California water and public power utilities to maintain strong operational and financial performance over the next year, despite the effects of the statewide drought. Fitch expects the statewide call for conservation will lead to a drop in water sales, which could impact water utilities in fiscal year 2015. However, most California utilities have mechanisms in place to buffer the financial impacts of lower water sales.

Ratings could eventually be pressured if the severity and duration of this drought were to result in sustained weakness (i.e. more than one year) in utility credit quality.

"Historically, annual snow and rainfall in California fluctuates, so the state is accustomed to recurring droughts and many utilities have made reasonable investments to prepare themselves," said Kathy Masterson, senior director at Fitch. "With California in its third year of below-average water conditions, utility financial performance will be determined by individual utilities' investments to date in water supply diversity, rate structure mechanisms, and their ability and willingness to offset lower sales with rate increases when needed."

In addition, the state will likely see a decrease in low-cost hydropower production due to the drought, although Fitch expects this to be manageable for local public power utilities.

Despite considerable investments already made to prepare for hydrologic cycles, the current drought has increased support for infrastructure investments, particularly water storage projects.

While Southern California utilities have taken measures in the last 20 years to increase storage capacity, making them better prepared, utilities in the Northern California and the Central Valley have fewer storage facilities and are more reliant on non-adjudicated groundwater supplies, which continue to decline.

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FORMER DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

# RALPH F. KAELBLE

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Visalia Police Officer's Association
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Porterville Peace Officer's Association
Exeter Police Officer's Association
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Kern Law Enforcement Association
El Centro Mexicano American Latino
Tulare County Hispanic Roundtable
Tule River Tribe
City of Visalia Mayor Steve Nelsen
City of Tulare Vice Mayor Carlton Jones
City of Lindsay Mayor Ramona Villarreal-Padilla
City of Lindsay Council Member Rosaena Sanchez
Tulare County Association of REALTORS©

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- RALPH F. KAELBLE

"We are pleased to announce our endorsement of Ralph F. Kaelble for Tulare County District Attorney in the June 3, 2014 election. The membership overwhelmingly voted to support Ralph due to his proven leadership skills, his passion for the position and his vision for the future. We believe he is the best candidate and we wholeheartedly support him."

- AARON SUTHERLAND
Porterville Peace Officer's Association President

"I have seen the phrase 'Proven Leadership' in this election. Ralph has proven his leadership to the law enforcement community and that is why officers and deputies stand with him to protect our citizens. On multiple occasions, he has taken the time to ride a shift with the boots-on-the-ground, not only to see cases through the eyes of law enforcement, but to see the true pain a victim suffers when atrocities are committed against them. He took these experiences and used them to tip the scales of justice for the victims."

- ROBERT MEIER
Porterville Peace Officer's Association Member

"I believe that Ralph Kaelble will be an honest and hardworking District Attorney. He will put the safety of the people of Tulare County above any petty political concern. He has the support of law enforcement and the people of Tulare County. I ask that you vote for Ralph Kaelble for Tulare County District Attorney."

- DON H. GALLIAN
Retired Tulare County Assistant District Attorneyt

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FOR TULARE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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# Conway's Bill to Protect Consumer Privacy, Increase Accountability Defeated

STAFF REPORTS

Democrats on the California State Assembly Health Committee killed GOP-authored legislation to protect people's health care privacy and give Californians more affordable options for obtaining health coverage.

One measure blocked by Democrats [Assembly Bill 1829 (Conway)] would prevent anyone who has been convicted of felony crimes of dishonesty or breach of trust from being hired by Covered California if he or she would have access to the financial or medical information of enrollees.

"I believe in second chances, but not giving those convicted of forgery or fraud access to people's Social Security numbers or tax returns," said Assembly Republican Leader Conway, of Tulare. "Today's vote by the majority party means that consumers who sign up for a plan through Covered California will still be at risk of having their private information compromised by those who have committed financial crimes."

Stories published earlier this year by the *National Review* and *Los Angeles Times* revealed Covered California has hired at least 43 convicted criminals as enrollment workers with access to personal and financial information such as Social Security numbers, tax return history and private health data.

Democrats also blocked Assembly Bill 2601 (Conway), which would have required legislative approval of any assessments on health insurers proposed by the board of Covered California for operations and advertising. These increased assessments are important to track as they could raise the cost of health insurance for all Californians.

"Taxpayers have been deeply troubled by recent reports of questionable spending by Covered California, such as the $1.37 million ad starring Richard Simmons," said Conway. "I believe the Legislature must exercise its duty to increase oversight of the state exchange's activities. Unfortunately, the majority party today stood in the way of badly-needed reforms to make Covered California more accountable to consumers and the Legislature."

Assembly Republicans introduced nine health care reform measures this session to give Californians more affordable health care choices, protect consumer privacy, and increase accountability.

Other GOP health care reform measures blocked were:

- Assembly Bill 1830 (Conway) would prohibit Covered California workers who collect the personal information of enrollees from sharing this data with another organization for non-health care-related purposes.
- Assembly Bill 2433 (Mansoor) would make consumers who qualify for the president's "hardship exemption" eligible to purchase more affordable cheaper catastrophic policies through the exchange.

# Presidio's Venture with San Joaquin Valley Homes Adds 732 New Homes to Local Market

Presidio Residential Capital, headquartered in San Diego, working with Visalia-based development company San Joaquin Valley Homes, is investing $23 million to build five new communities in Tulare and Kings counties. The developments will add 732 new homes to the Valley's rapidly expanding housing market.

"The San Joaquin Valley is developing quickly, and this partnership allows Presidio to play a major role in providing much-needed housing," said Presidio Residential Capital Principal Don Faye. "With this new homebuilding operation, we can do something we do very well – capitalize on an underserved market."

The company is slated to begin work this summer on its newest project, which consists of 95 lots in northwest Visalia. The development will be the company's first move-up project, with house sizes expected to range between 2,200 and 3,200 square feet. Sales are expected to begin in late summer and continue through the end of 2016.

The largest of the communities is Savannah, a 130-home development on 80 acres in Tulare, which broke ground last August. Designed by Sierra Design, the community at Cross and West Streets offers homes ranging from 11,390 square feet to 2,420 square feet on 7,000-square-foot lots. Model homes were unveiled during a grand opening in October 2013.

Offering 121 detached single-family homes in Hanford, Hartley Grove is a $36.5 million 50-acre community that broke ground in July 2013 and held its grand opening in September 2013. Also designed by Sierra Design, the development at 12th and Hume offers homes ranging from 1,390 square feet to 2,322 square feet on 7,000-square-foot lots.

Construction began in December 2013 at Chelsea Place, a 40-acre development with 155 lots at Maddox and Caldwell Streets in Visalia. The community, designed by Sierra Design, is offering 6,500-square-foot lots for detached single-family homes ranging in size from 1,575 square feet to 2,420 square feet.

Pheasant Ridge, a 76-unit development on West Hume Lake Drive in Corcoran, will offer 73 8,500-square-foot lots for detached single-family homes ranging in size from 1,260 square feet to 1,872 square feet. Construction began in January, and the project should be complete in two years.

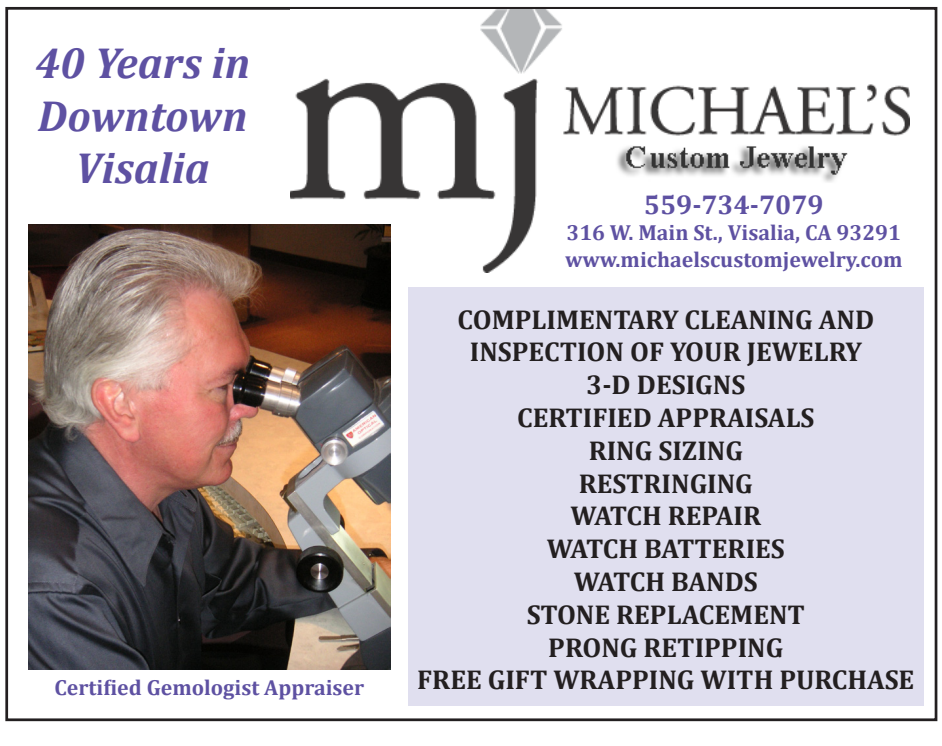
Construction began last month at Catalina, a 71-unit development at Mooney and Kern Streets in Tulare. The community will offer 71 4,500-square-foot lots for homes ranging in size from 1,260 square feet to 1,575 square feet as well as a neighborhood park. Models are expected to open in May 2014, and build-out is expected to take two years.

# Visalians Can Water Twice a Week in May

The Visalia City Council's water conservation ordinance that implemented Stage 4 – Water Emergency, allows watering two days a week in May, and three days a week from June through September. In total, the changes will bring an estimated 25% annual reduction in landscape irrigation, which is responsible for about 60% of total water usage in the city.

In May, odd-numbered addresses will water on Tuesday and Saturday, even numbers on Wednesday and Sunday. During the summer months when three days a week are allowed, odd-numbered addresses will water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and even numbers on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Visit www.visalia.watersavingplants.com for a gallery of water-saving ideas courtesy of California Water Service Company.



# Political Fix

Continued from p. 3

completed a poll that listed Mr. Kashkari as lagging behind a registered sex offender. Not only is Mr. Kashkari not in second place, he is in fact coming in sixth, behind a field of Republicans including Glenn Champ, who was put on the state's sex offender registry after he was convicted in 1993 of two counts of assault with intent to commit rape. Mr. Champ also killed a man while driving, and was convicted of soliciting a prostitute.

Mr. Champ told the *Los Angeles Times* he has since found God and turned his life around.

Tim Donnelly has also had a bad week, but when your tin foil hat is on too tight, that translates into a great week. Tim Scott, a Kashkari supporter, filed a formal complaint against Mr. Donnelly for failing to report an RV as a political contribution. The donated motor home, which of course, Donnelly calls "the Liberty Express," is frequently featured in his social media posts and emails as he campaigns for governor throughout California.

According to the *L.A. Times*, Mr. Scott felt that Mr. Kashkari's campaign raised some very valid questions about Mr. Donnelly's financial reports. "If you're running for governor, you have to play by the rules."

Obviously, Mr. Scott has not been following California politics.

But the two issues that are always sure to fire up Mr. Donnelly's base are immigration and guns.

Since there just aren't enough guns on the street, Mr. Donnelly introduced a new bill to relax the rules around who has a right to carry a concealed gun. He declared unconstitutional the restrictions that many California counties have used to sharply limit the right to carry a concealed weapon. Mr. Donnelly's AB1563 would strip county sheriffs of the authority and discretion to grant or deny such permits -- and instead give that authority to the state Justice Department.

Mr. Donnelly is still on probation for carrying a loaded .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun in his carry-on bag as he tried to board a plane at the Ontario Airport.

On immigration, the *Los Angeles Times* just dug up this week a 2006 speech where Donnelly painted an alarming picture of illegal immigrants. He explained in the speech that the notion that illegal immigrants come to this nation for a better life "is one of the lies," he said. "At least 20% are coming to commit the crimes that American criminals will no longer commit. Of that 20%, how many are rapists? How many are murderers? How many are child molesters? And how many are terrorists? We don't know. We are on the brink of a battle," he said, "unlike the likes of which this nation has seen since 1861."

According to Around the Capitol website, "Business interests that normally fund GOP candidates have abandoned this field (of gubernatorial candidates) and it will likely have ramifications down-ballot come November. There will be plenty of Monday morning quarterbacking following this year, but Mr. Kashkari erred in waiting to launch his campaign, and Abel Maldonado's campaign uncertainty didn't help." Mr. Maldonado is the former Republican Lieutenant Governor who dropped out of the governor's race in January. There is no indication that he would have fared any better than his compadres, seeing as he was appointed by Mr. Schwarzenegger and had never won a statewide office.

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- ★ Farmersville Police Officers' Association
- ★ Lindsay Public Safety Officers' Association
- ★ Porterville Police Officers' Association
- ★ Tulare City Professional Fire Fighters Association
- ★ Peace Officers Research Association of California
- ★ California Narcotic Officers' Association
- ★ California Correctional Peace Officers Association
- ★ Cliff Bush, Exeter Police Chief
- ★ Mario Krstic, Farmersville Police Chief
- ★ Rich Wilkinson, Lindsay Police Chief
- ★ Margaret Mims, Fresno County Sheriff
- ★ Donny Youngblood, Kern County Sheriff
- ★ David Robinson, Kings County Sheriff
- ★ John Anderson, Madera County Sheriff

**Mike Boudreaux has 28 years of experience with the Tulare Co. Sheriff's Department**

- ★ Appointed Acting Sheriff by Board of Supervisors
- ★ Master of Science degree in Administration
- ★ Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice
- ★ Graduate of FBI National Academy in Quantico
- ★ Graduate of LAPD West Point Leadership Academy
- ★ Worked his way up through the ranks of the Sheriff's Department: Cadet, Deputy Sheriff, Field Training Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Undersheriff and now Acting Sheriff
- ★ Married to Angela, Father of Zachary, Natalie and Nathan

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# Forum

Continued from p. 1

as assistant district attorney in some of the worst budget times," he said, before adding that things have improved since then. "We've got the resources we need. It's up to us to do things now."

"The biggest issue is doing the work of public safety, keeping the public safe," responded Kaelble to the same question. He also stressed the need for more training, calling it "a huge public safety issue."

When asked how the candidates are different, Kaelble said, "I think communication is the single main difference with my opponent." He talked about his time running the district attorney's office in Porterville where he established an open-door policy. "The Porterville police support me. They know what I'm about. I made it a big thing that I'd always listen to everyone.

"I think that the district attorney's office should have office hours in every area in the county," he added.

In response to Kaelble's list of endorsements from local law enforcement unions, Ward pointed out that he has the support of local police chiefs. "I think it's better to focus on the leadership of law enforcement than police unions," he said. "We have a professional relationship with the leadership of law enforcement that's as good as it's ever been.

"Training is not an issue in our office," said Ward about another issue raised by Kaelble. "Anytime a police chief calls us, we do training." He added that his staff "has full faith and confidence" in the way the office is being run, and talked about its increasing diversity.

When asked about his management style, Kaelble talked again about the importance of an open-door policy. "If a person – a lieutenant or sergeant – calls me, I'm going to listen."

In response to Ward's comments about the office's increased diversity, Kaelble noted that he was the one endorsed by El Centro Mexicano American Latino, the Tule River Tribe and the Tulare County Hispanic Roundtable.

"You have to work together as a team," said Kaelble when asked how to increase successful prosecutions. "You have to be there for your employees. I'm going to be there to get it done." He also said that the process "means constant communication with law enforcement."

Ward credited his office's ability to work with law enforcement as a reason for success in the effort to fight gang crime in Orosi, as well as in marijuana eradication in the county. "We're working with law enforcement and coordinating with the attorney general's office whenever we can assist them as well."

Ward said that he was working to protect business and ag "the day after I was sworn in. We put more resources in the rural crime program than ever before." He added that his office has "the second largest real estate program in the state."

Regarding the effort to fight ag crime, Kaelble credited Ward's predecessor Cline for the "great program" he instituted. "Ag is so important to our community," he said. "If California ag goes down, we are in serious, serious trouble."

When asked about any staff changes following the election, Ward introduced his assistant district attorneys, Dan Underwood and Anthony Fultz. Kaelble took this opportunity to address rumors that he plans to appoint his former supervisor Shani Jenkins, who left the district attorney's office following accusations she sexually harassed an employee. He said that Jenkins now has a job where she "is probably making a lot more money" than she did with the district attorney's office.

"I don't intend to make any changes in management staff," said Kaelble. "If they're working hard, why would I make changes?"

Kaelble dismissed Ward's claim of a 94% conviction rate. "I don't think that statistics are all that important," he said. "You can use statistics any way you want. Mr. Ward is the only person in the room who can tell you what the 94% means. It's not 94% of all cases. That's an impossibility."

"We are more aggressive with felony cases than we have been in a long time," said Ward, adding that crime is down about 6%. "That tells you our office is filing cases."

The next question suggested that "some cases seem to be for political gain," apparently in response to high-profile cases that have made news in recent weeks.

"Politics are not a function of this office in any way," said Ward, adding that work on one of the cases has been underway for more than 10 months. "This comment is not made by anyone in the know."

"I've heard all kinds of stories about that," said Kaelble. "I don't know."

In his closing statement, Kaelble described himself as "just an average guy" with a law degree and 14 years of experience in the district attorney's office. "It's about public service," he said. "It's not about being a politician.

"Are we going to stand for succession politics or are we going to have a voice?" he continued, before adding that Ward sought endorsements from the same law enforcement unions that now back Kaelble. "He stood at the same doors as I did and wanted those same endorsements and couldn't get them. Now, he tries to belittle their support."

"In no way did I or will I ever belittle law enforcement," responded Ward in his closing statement, adding that "a number of those unions never went to a vote" and some endorsements were decided by "three or four people."

He also commented, "We deserve more than an 'average guy' for the office of district attorney."

# Garden

Continued from p. 1

Saturday, May 3rd, from 7:30am to 1:00pm at St. John's Riverwalk on Ben Maddox and St. John's River. The day begins with a birdwatching tour, then workshops will be given throughout the morning. An official tour of the demonstration garden is at 8:30. Visalia's ten-year anniversary of celebrating Earth Day serendipitously coincides with the worst drought on record, so water conservation will be the day's focus. There will be exhibitors, vendors, multiple water efficiency demonstrations, birding and native plant educational walks and live music. For those who can't make it to St. John's Parkway on Saturday and need help in designing their own drought-resistant landscaping, go to www.visalia.watersavingplants.com for a gallery of ideas, courtesy of California Water Service Company. Over 100 beautiful low-maintenance plants native to California are pictured as examples for a yard makeover.

For those who want more inspiration, the UC Master Gardeners of Tulare and Kings Counties are hosting free Garden Festivals where you can learn how to garden or prepare for this year's landscaping projects. The festivals will have information on a wide variety of plants including fruits, veggies, herbs, ornamentals, natives and landscape trees, along with tips on saving water. The displays will show aspiring gardeners how to create sustainable landscapes, manage insects, diseases and much more. The next Home Gardening Festival is 10:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday, May 10, at Joyner Park in Downtown Exeter. The last one of the season will be at Bravo Lake Botanical Gardens in Woodlake on Naranjo and Valencia Blvds. Call 684-3300 for more information.

When planning a new garden, remember that starting in May, Visalia residents can water twice a week and three times a week during June, July, August and September. Not being able to water as much as our neighbors outside the city limits may make their lawns look greener, but as Garza said, "Look how beautiful Visalia will be when everyone else's well runs dry. The hope is to get people to see what they can do with their garden and get away from planting fescue grass."

For more information, go to www.gogreenvisalia.com.

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## Four Campgrounds' Fees Rise at Sequoia National Park

Today, fees for campsites in four campgrounds – Lodgepole, Dorst Creek, Buckeye Flat, and Potwisha – at Sequoia National Park increase to $22. This is the first fee increase since 2003.

The fee increase will provide for better customer service in several ways: by covering the cost of the reservation system – Recreation.gov – and providing funding for projects that improve many visitors' experiences, such as staffing to assist campers, rehabilitation of campgrounds and picnic areas, development of trails and outdoor exhibits.

Both Potwisha and Buckeye Flat campgrounds are now on the reservation system for the first time this year. Starting today, reservations are available year round for campsites at Potwisha Campground with a limited number of first-come, first-served sites available during the busiest season (summer). Reservations will be necessary from May 21 to September 29 at Buckeye Flat Campground. Reservations for both campgrounds may be made up to six months in advance at (877) 444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

Last summer, the public and other stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on a potential fee increase. The park issued a news release on August 22, 2013, to announce an open comment period from August 22 to September 21, 2013. Interested parties were encouraged to make comments electronically at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment website or in writing by mail, fax or hand-delivery. The parks received six comments.

For more information about camping at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, call 559-565-3341 or visit www.nps.gov/seki. (Follow the link on the left side of the webpage to "Plan Your Visit.")

## Insurance Commissioner Jones to Speak

California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones and Assembly Member Luis Alejo will be the keynote speakers at the annual Rose Ann Vuich Dinner and Awards Presentation on Saturday, May 10, at the Lamp Liter Inn in Visalia.

*California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones*

"We are happy that we have two brilliant and effective leaders coming to Tulare County to speak to us Democrats," said Ruben Macareno the chairman of the Tulare County Democratic Party.

Jones leads the California Department of Insurance (CDI), the largest consumer protection agency in the state, which regulates the $123 billion insurance industry. Since being elected, he has saved policyholders more than $1.4 billion in premiums. He also issued emergency regulations to require that at least 80% of the individual health insurance premium dollars go to actual health care, and not to insurer profits, marketing and overhead and much more.

*Assembly Member Luis Alejo*

In 2011, Jones was named one of California's Top 100 Lawyers by the state's largest legal newspaper, the Daily Journal. The Greenlining Institute gave Jones their "2012 Big Heart Award" for this work promoting insurance industry diversity. Jones received the 2012 Distinguished Advocate Award from Autism Speaks.

Alejo has received numerous awards for his work. In 2013, he had all of his 11 bills become law. The most notable bills were Assembly Bill 60, the Safe and Responsible Driver Act, which gives undocumented immigrants the opportunity to apply for a driver's license. The other was AB 10, which raises the minimum wage in California to $10 an hour, the highest in the nation.

Scheduled for the evening is a silent auction, local recognition of Democrats for their achievements in 2013, a pre-dinner reception at 5:30pm; and a dinner and program at 7pm. Individual tickets are $75 per person.

For more information, call 372-2126 or email ruben.macareno@yahoo.com.

## Former Presidential Candidate Rick Santorum Scheduled to Speak at Local Pro-Life Banquet

STAFF REPORTS

Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum, a 2012 presidential candidate, will speak at Tulare-Kings Right to Life's (TKRL) 19th Annual "Making a Difference for Life" Fundraising Banquet to be held at 7pm on Thursday, September 4th, at the Visalia Convention Center.

*Former Senator Rick Santorum*

Santorum was elected to the House of Representatives in 1990 at the age of 32, and served in the Senate from 1995 to 2007. He became known as a government reformer and was member of the famous "Gang of Seven" that exposed the Congressional Banking and Congressional Post Office scandals.

He served eight years on the Senate Armed Services Committee and was also an author of the landmark Welfare Reform Act, passed in 1996, which resulted in millions of Americans leaving the welfare rolls.

Santorum wrote and championed legislation that outlawed the procedure known as partial birth abortion, as well as the "Born Alive Infants Protection Act," the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act" and the "Combating Autism Act." He has fought for a balanced budget and a line item veto. He proposed reforming entitlements and cutting spending, and developed a "spendometer" that added up the cost of amendments to spending bills.

An accomplished author, Santorum penned the 2005 New York Times best seller *It Takes a Family*.

In addition to Santorum's message, Tulare-Kings Right to Life will update the community on its work through Latinos4Life, Voices for Life and The IRMA Network. Over the past year, TKRL has educated literally thousands of local residents about pregnancy termination, after-abortion issues, embryonic stem cell research, infanticide and euthanasia.

Sponsorships for a table of eight are $560; individual tickets may be purchased for $75. For more information or to reserve a table, call 732-5000 or visit www.tkrl.org.

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Lot 14 Tulare Business Park 3.01 Acres……..…...$ 555,000
Lot 15 Tulare Business Park 1.43 Acres……..…...$ 350,000
157 Acres Industrial Zoned Land ……$ 8,276,400
5 acres of land for ground lease Industrial zoned……..$2,500 rent
5 Acres (66 Unites Approved) Multi Family Development…….. $1,250,000
Approved Gas Station Site 25,000 SF…… $650,000
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# News in Brief...

### TULARE COUNTY PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL CEREMONY SCHEDULED

The 2014 Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony will be held at 9am on Wednesday May 7 at the Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial at the corner of Woodland and Burrel in Visalia.

Representatives from local government, law enforcement and members of the public will gather together to remember and honor the fallen law enforcement of years past, and to remember that those who paid the ultimate sacrifice did not do so in vain, and that they will not be forgotten. This year, the event will add the name of Deputy Jeremy Meyst, whose end of watch was on December 24, 2013.

This year's program includes Acting Sheriff Mike Boudreaux as master of ceremonies, Merrily Rapozo-Wilson – 1998 surviving spouse – as guest speaker, and Megan Rapozo reading the End of Watch Roll Call, as well as performances by the El Diamante High School Choir and bagpiping by Mark Little.

### CONWAY INTRODUCES BILL TO CRACK DOWN ON PEOPLE SELLING FOOD STAMPS

Assembly Republican Leader Connie Conway, R-Tulare, has introduced legislation to combat a growing trend of food stamp recipients selling their EBT cards for cash by requiring that photo identification be incorporated into the cards.

"Californians are a very generous people, and are willing to help their friends and neighbors when times are tough," said Conway. "But when individuals sell their CalFresh benefits for cash, they are breaking the law and abusing the generosity of state taxpayers. Every dollar spent on fraudulent benefits sold for cash is a dollar that is not going to help families who are truly in need."

Assembly Bill 2354 would require all electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards in California have photo identification on either the front or back of the card. This would prevent individuals from illegally selling their EBT cards and reduce incidents of theft.

### VALLEY COMMERCE BANCORP REPORTS FIRST QUARTER 2014 RESULTS

Valley Commerce Bancorp, a bank holding company and the parent company of Valley Business Bank, announced unaudited first quarter 2014 net income of $743,000, or $0.26 per diluted common share. This matched net income of $743,000 or $0.26 per diluted common share for the first quarter of 2013.

Allan W. Stone, president and CEO, remarked, "Coming off a year of record profitability, we are pleased to be off to a similar start in 2014. Drought conditions notwithstanding, we remain very optimistic about the local economy and are encouraged to see our growth strategies producing results."

### MIKE BOLSINGER BECOMES VISALIA'S 250TH MAJOR LEAGUE ALUMNUS

Last month, when Visalia Rawhide pitcher Mike Bolsinger was called up to the Arizona Diamondbacks, and made his Major League debut by pitching three innings for the D-backs, he officially became Visalia's 250th alumnus to reach the Major Leagues.

"This is just another reminder that the players we see in Visalia each season are more than just names and numbers; many of them are future stars and household names," said Rawhide Director of Broadcasting and Media Donny Baarns. "We have a unique privilege to watch these talents showcase their elite abilities in our town, and to have them put Tulare County on the national map."

### KENNEDY FUNDING COMPLETES $5.28 MILLION FINANCING FOR TULARE PROPERTY

Kennedy Funding Financial has completed a $5.28 million loan by Tulare Lender, LLC to Tulare Bethel Housing, Inc., an affiliate of the Bethel Assembly of God in Tulare. The three-year interest-only financing is secured by a first lien on two parcels of land totaling 33.74 acres in Tulare. One parcel, totaling 4.74 acres along Tulare's North M Street, is currently under contract and is scheduled to close in July. The remaining 29 acres were acquired by the church in three separate transactions between 2010 and 2012.

The proposed project consists of five buildings designed to complement each other in design and function. Phase one will consist of three buildings: a 96-unit apartment building (amenities include a swimming pool, meeting room, and library); a 30-unit assisted living residence; and a 20,000-square-foot clubhouse that will serve as a community center with a variety of services including a food bank and thrift store, and will act as an emergency building for the local Red Cross.

The second phase will consist of a 72-unit, three-story apartment building offering meals and hotel-type maid service. Finally, a 57,000-square-foot convention center will be utilized for services of the Bethel Assembly of God, as well as for concerts, small conventions and school gatherings. It is designed to seat 900 with long-term plans for an expansion to seating for 2,000.

### TULARE SCI-FI CON TO RETURN IN 2015

After crunching all the numbers and paying all the bills, the first Tulare Sci-Fi Con raised $3233.41 for the Tulare Library Foundation for the Tulare Public Library Children's Section, reported committee member Derek Mazer.

"This was our first convention and a huge undertaking," Mazer said. "I want to thank everyone who came out to support us in this effort. We have decided we will do this again next year and have chosen the Tulare Library Children's Section to raise funds for in 2015. We will continue to raise funds for this cause until they have the funds they need to revamp/update the children's section."

### DAIRY EXPERTS PARTICIPATES IN BOVINE MASTITIS TESTING

Health Enhancement Products, Inc., a Michigan-based biotech firm investigating bioactive compounds extracted from algal cultures, announced the kickoff of a large-scale bovine study to gauge the efficacy of its candidate compounds in addressing mastitis, a condition that affects the health of dairy cows and impacts milk production. Mastitis affects up to 10% of the U.S. dairy herd at any given time and is responsible for nearly $3 billion in lost milk production annually.

Contract research organization Dairy Experts, based in Tulare, will be conducting the study. The firm conducts large-scale clinical studies for a variety of institutions, both public and private. The scale of the study is such that study groups will need to be staggered to accommodate the anticipated logistical demands.

### CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE INSTITUTE HONORS CONGRESSMAN VALADAO

Last month, California Congressmen David G. Valadao (R-Hanford) and Scott Peters (D-San Diego) were honored by the California Healthcare Institute (CHI) for their leadership in promoting thoughtful policies to advance biomedical research, investment and innovation over the past year. CHI is a nonprofit, public policy research organization, representing leading academic and nonprofit research institutions and biotechnology, medical device, diagnostics and pharmaceutical firm. Congressman Valadao as well as Congressman Peters each received the 2014 Visionary Award presented by CHI President and CEO Todd Gillenwater.

"Representatives Peters and Valadao have established themselves, in their first year in office, as dedicated advocates for the broad biomedical ecosystem centered in our state and across the nation," said Gillenwater. "We are proud to bestow them with CHI's 2014 Visionary Award for their efforts to advance sound public policy and legislation for a sector that employs more than 270,000 Californians in pursuit of new medicines and technologies for patients in need around the world."

### FHCN DIRECTOR HONORED FOR ADVOCACY IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) honored Dante Rosh, director of administrative services for Family HealthCare Network in Visalia with the Elizabeth K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award. The award recognizes the dedication and efforts by advocates to generate public and political support for the strength and expansion of America's Health Centers. Rosh was presented the award at the 39th Annual NACHC Policy and Issues Forum in Washington, D.C., attended by more than 2,000 health center leaders from around the U.S.

"Dante has been a passionate advocate on behalf of health centers and the movement would not be what it is today without her dedication, skilled leadership and tireless energy," said Tom Van Coverden, president and CEO of NACHC. "She has been to Capitol Hill carrying the health center message and rallying public support and funding in her state. We're deeply appreciative of Dante's commitment, hard work and leadership in advocacy."

Rosh has been in her current position since April 2013. She has been with FHCN for three years, serving in various roles. She graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a BA degree in sociology and is currently completing her master's degree in leadership studies at Fresno Pacific University in Fresno.

# HSR

Continued from p. 1

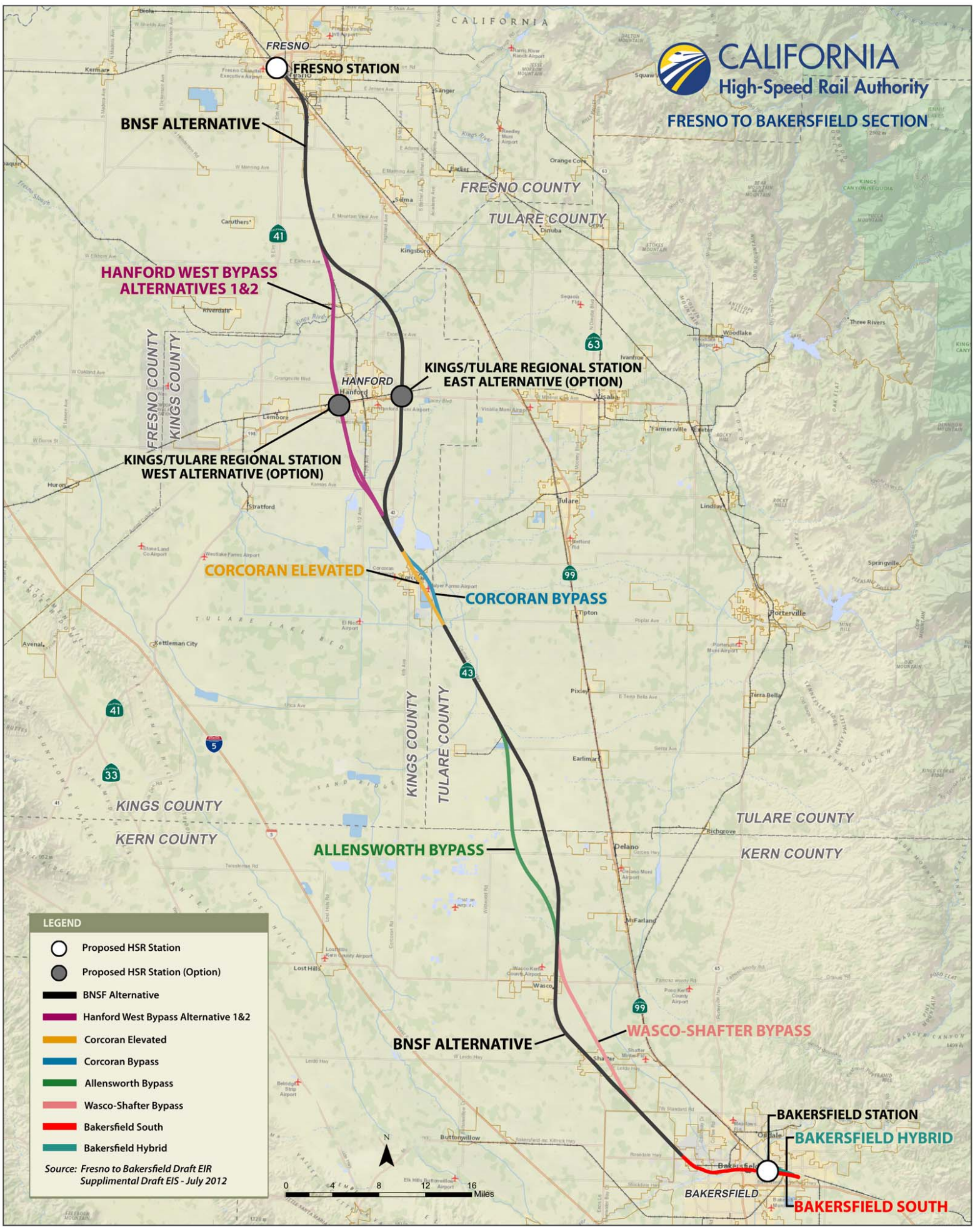
primary sphere of influence and is adjacent to the intersection of SR 198 and SR 43 on the BNSF Alternative Alignment. These two highways would provide access to the station for shuttle bus service from the communities in the area.

The Kings/Tulare Regional Station–West Alternative is situated between the city of Hanford and the unincorporated community of Armona on the Hanford West Bypass 1 and 2 alternatives and Hanford West Bypass 1 and 2 Modified alternatives. SR 198 would provide access to the station for shuttle bus service from the communities in the region.

The proposed Hanford West Bypass 1 and 2 alternatives diverge from the BNSF Alternative at approximately East Conejo Avenue; both alternatives pass the city of Hanford to the west and rejoin the BNSF Alternative at Hanford to the west and rejoin the BNSF Alternative at SR 43 north of the city of Corcoran. The alternatives are on the same alignment from north to south until about Jackson Avenue, where the Hanford West Bypass 1 Alternative curves farther to the west to join with the BNSF Alternative north of the city of Corcoran. The Hanford West Bypass 2 Alternative remains on a more southeasterly route to join with either the Corcoran Elevated Alternative or the Corcoran Bypass Alternative.

The Corcoran Elevated Alternative would be the same as the corresponding segment of the BNSF Alternative except that it would pass through the city of Corcoran on the eastern side of the BNSF Railway right-of-way on an elevated structure. The Corcoran Bypass Alternative would diverge from the BNSF Alternative at approximately Nevada Avenue and swing east of Corcoran, rejoining the BNSF Alternative at Avenue 136 south of Corcoran.

The Allensworth Bypass Alternative would diverge from the BNSF Alternative at Avenue 84 in Tulare County and swing west of Allensworth State Historic Park, rejoining the BNSF Alternative at Elmo Highway in Kern County.




On May 6 and May 7, the Authority's board of directors will host a two-day meeting at Fresno City Hall to take public comment and consider certification of the Final EIR/EIS and approval of all or parts of the Fresno to Bakersfield section of the project. The May 6th meeting, scheduled 3-7:30pm, will include staff presentation of the report and allow for public comment on the Final EIR/EIS. The board will deliberate and possibly act on the report at the 10am meeting on May 7.

Following any action by the board, the FRA will consider approving the Fresno-to-Bakersfield project section and issuing a Record of Decision related to the project and the Final EIR/EIS. That action is anticipated to occur in May or June.

The Final EIR/EIS and associated documents have been posted on the Authority's website at www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Environmental_Planning/final_fresno_bakersfield.html and on the FRA website at www.fra.dot.gov.

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# DWR Announces Valley Citrus Growers to Receive 0% Water Allocation

This spring, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced that rain and snow storms in February and March have allowed an increase of water contract allocations for State Water Project deliveries from zero to five percent.

Although this appears to have been positive news for agricultural interests in the San Joaquin Valley, it is far from it. The DWR announcement went on to state that the precipitation from these recent storms eliminates the need for rock barriers to be constructed in the Delta. This means that the increase in water deliveries will be flushed into the ocean in order to protect fish species and prevent saltwater intrusion in the Delta. San Joaquin Valley agriculture remains at zero percent allocation.

Approximately 75% of the California citrus crop is produced in Tulare, Kern and Fresno counties. A majority of this acreage relies on surface water from the Friant-Kern Canal. DWR's delivery increase does nothing to reduce the pressure on the Friant from exchange contractors who would otherwise receive their water via the State Water Project.

Earlier this month, the DWR and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released a 168-page document they refer to as the "plan." However, the plan does not once refer to the people or the economy that will be impacted by zero water allocation to agriculture. The word farmer, or agriculture, appears once. The word fish is stated 328 times.

"Friday's announcement was made with much fanfare and yet the decision completely ignores the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, and even stipulates that we are not important," says CCM President Joel Nelsen.

"Our Valley is the number one supplier of fresh fruits and vegetables and yet that does not enter into the equation for water needs," continues Nelsen. "Whatever happened to the goal of providing a bountiful array of fresh produce at affordable prices?"

The Friant-Kern Canal needs at least 200,000 acre-feet to remain functioning. The decision not to release sufficient water to the State Water Project guarantees that exchange contractors will call upon their first rights to water supplies in Millerton Lake and reduce the amount that would otherwise flow to the Friant-Kern Canal. This decision is forcing growers to make their own decision – between pushing out trees and holding out for water that may come too late, or not at all. Over 50,000 acres of citrus in the San Joaquin Valley is at risk.

"I continue to be mystified by the announcement last Friday and the inconsistencies it presents," says Nelsen. "The announcement on Friday and previous announcements all state that the public should strive to conserve at least 20% of their normal water use. Yet the producers I represent, and for that matter all producers on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, are being told to give up 100% of their water. In fact, those in the Friant service area are the only contractors being asked to give up 100% of their water."

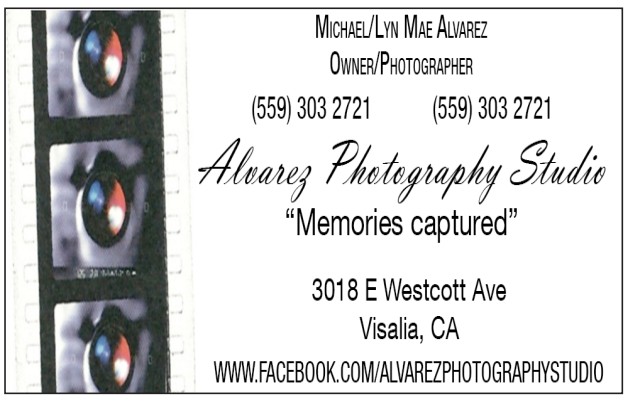
*This photo above depicts "petal fall" and the first life stages of an orange, when the blooms have fallen. It is at this critical point of the growing season, when we enter into the hottest months of the year, that sufficient water is available for the cultivation of the crop.*

This situation is real and devastating for many family citrus farmers. Here are a just a few growers who are facing zero water allocations.

- Andrew Brown, a fourth-generation citrus grower in the Orange Cove, Orosi/Cutler area works alongside his father and brothers on his family's farm. He has known since college he would follow in his father's footsteps and return to farming because it is a rewarding business mentally, spiritually and financially. Now he has his own ranch, where one day his two young children want to be farmers.
- Gus Carranza grew up picking oranges in the San Joaquin Valley alongside his parents. He worked through school as a truck driver for a farming operation. His career in the citrus industry eventually led him to work for a major citrus grower-shipper operation. He now manages their field department. In 2000, he started farming his own acreage in Terra Bella with his brothers. What began as a 10-acre operation has now expanded to 130 acres. He has received zero surface water this year. Unless something changes, he will watch his trees die, and watch his investment of $30,000 per acre die with them.
- Maribel Nenna works for a packinghouse in Southern California as the operation's field advisor in the Central Valley. Ten years ago, she and her brother took their passion for the citrus industry and purchased 10 acres of citrus. Today, they farm 40 acres – all have received zero water allocation. In two weeks, those trees, approximately 135 trees per acre, will lose their crop if they do not receive water.
- Matt Leider is a fifth-generation citrus producer. He grew up working on his mother's ranch in Southern California before going to college. His involvement in the citrus industry is now two-fold. He works on his uncle's citrus ranch in Porterville, and manages a successful mechanical pruning business that services citrus growers throughout the Valley. He needs one acre-foot of water per acre just to keep his family's citrus acreage alive, but he doesn't have it.
- Carlos Gutierrez came to Lindsay when he was four years old. In 1999, he started a portable restroom business servicing citrus harvest crews. He then bought 12 acres of citrus on his own in 2001. Now, he manages harvesting crews for a packinghouse and owns over 100 acres on his own. He has a little water, but not enough to keep all of acreage alive.
- Jesus Ramos farms 86 acres in Terra Bella and another 50 acres in Strathmore. He put down a deposit of $600 per acre-foot for water, and now hopes to find water at $1,200 an acre-foot – but he can't find any because none is available. He hopes to save his best acreage because he knows he can't save everything.

"Everybody talks about protecting the family farmer, but by denying surface water to the Friant service area the state's water agencies are aiding in their demise," concludes Nelsen.


## Business Gallery



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Whaley Responds to Case Dismissal

I read with astonishment the article headlined "DA rejects fraud case" in the April 24th *Visalia Times-Delta*. The sub header was entitled "FPPC finds no campaign rules were broken during raffle." This article left people asking questions about several issues that have been previously covered regarding the illegal raffle/lottery.

Acting Sheriff Boudreaux states that the Fair Political Practices Commission submitted a review stating "that they had found no issues with the raffle from a campaign standpoint."

The Acting Sheriff continues to assert this campaign fundraising tactic was legal when it is clearly unlawful. All a fair minded person need do is visit the California Attorney General's website (frequently asked questions) and you find that Penal Code 320 makes it a misdemeanor to hold a raffle unless you are a charitable organization and exempted in P.C. 320.5. The website is also clear that the A.G. WILL NOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE and "YOU MUST RECEIVE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION BEFORE CONDUCTING ANY RAFFLE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE SALE OF TICKETS."

Our District Attorney has chosen to declare a conflict on the raffle and refer it to the Attorney General. Why would he choose now to even consider this victim's case of fraud submitted by Visalia Police Department? Shouldn't the District Attorney have declared a conflict on that too?

The Acting Sheriff continues to skirt the truth by telling the public that his raffle tactics were lawful. If it is true that he checked with the appropriate agencies in advance and was given approval then provide members of the press the names of the people who approved his raffle and produce the letter that the A.G. would have issued.

I believe that any law enforcement official, especially the Sheriff should be held to the highest standards of integrity and honesty. As peace officers we are not allowed to pick and choose which laws to enforce and we should lead by example. To do less exacerbates doubt and erodes the public's trust in our leaders.

*Dave Whaley*
*Candidate for Sheriff*

# Why the Truth About 9-11 is Important

Do you believe the official 9-11 report? Why?

According to AE911Truth, there is scientific proof that the Twin Towers and Building #7 were demolished by explosives. Many Americans agree with the architects and engineers of AE911Truth that a new independent investigation into 9-11 is needed because of the facts they have discovered.

Why is the truth about 9-11 important?

It is important that we believe our government is telling us the truth.

I used to believe that it was impossible for so many people to have been involved in what happened and not have one person who was involved come forward as a whistle blower. After watching the video "Experts Speak Out" by AE911Truth I have changed my mind. I believe that the Twin Towers and Building #7 were demolished by nanothermite. I wish that I did not believe that. However the facts are there that the Official 9-11 Report is not accurate concerning these three buildings.

Please do not take my word for it. Everyone who wants to know the truth must personally examine the facts and decide for themselves. Is our government telling us the truth or is there enough evidence to require a new independent investigation into 9-11?

Our government is our home. We must feel safe in our home. If there is leak in our roof we must fix it before we have a mold problem and have to move.

The library, bookstores and the computer are filled with information regarding the events of 9-11. Just search for AE911Truth, Building #7, Nanothermite, HR428 and decide for yourself.

If our government is telling the truth then it's all ok.

If our government is not telling us the truth then we either must correct it or we deserve whatever happens to us.

*Roy Kendall*
*Visalia, California*

# Reader Frustrated by 'Welfare Abusers'

*Valley Voice*,

I read your article on Calif. Food Banks have crucial need for more milk. I'm pretty sure these folks who are asking for food at the banks are receiving the E.B.T. Card and can buy so much food, I live where a lot of these Mexicans live they throw meat and all kinds of food, they are given too much. Why are they not made to work when we were that age we worked 2 Jobs to buy food. The food Banks do not check these free loaders why don't you check into these welfare abusers down at Bethlehem Center almost all the younger folks are all getting "EBT"

*Reader*
*Visalia, California*

**Editor's response:** *I'm very sorry you feel that way. The fact remains, many folks are in dire straits and it's worth it for us to do what we can in spite of any flaws in the system. My daughter is a Mexican, and she's an upstanding young lady.*

**Editor's note:** Now that the Valley Voice is receiving many more letters than previously, we'd like to state the obvious by saying that it is not our policy to edit your editorials. Bear this in mind, therefore, when writing us--so please be lucid.

# Black Tie

ALEX OLDENBOURG

*Woodcut Coquette*

## VETERAN'S CORNER

# Veteran Health and Resource Fair in Lemoore on May 30th

JOE WRIGHT

The VA Central California Health Care System, Office of Rural Health, in conjunction with American Legion Post #100, is sponsoring a Health and Resource Fair in Lemoore on May 30 at the Veterans Memorial Hall located at 411 West D Street. The event will run from 9am to noon. Veterans, spouses and family members are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

Resources will be available to answer questions about many veteran benefits including VA Healthcare, homeless programs and education assistance. VA Healthcare enrollment physicals will be available on site. The Kings County Veterans Service Office will be there to answer questions about claims assistance.

Local service providers/organizations, educational institutions, community service groups and any other organization that encounters veterans and their families are encouraged to participate. The point of contact for service providers is Katrina Ballard at 225-6100 ext. 5275.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office issues Veteran ID cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at www.countyofkings.com.

*Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the veterans service officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230; call 852-2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.*

# 'Many Facts... Need to be Exposed'

The gun raffle and campaigning on duty issues are deplorable but it's not a surprise. Those issues are however, absolutely trivial and insignificant if compare to the reality of the crimes that have been white-washed and swept under the carpet throughout the current 'acting' Sheriff's career. It's ironic that in his attempts to paint Whaley as a "good ol' boy" in his campaign speeches, he conveniently forgets that it was the good ol' boys (and his own Detective Father) that saved him (at least) three times from being reported and prosecuted on serious felony crimes (both on and off duty). The 'acting' Sheriff should be aware that there is a good majority of people (and witnesses) that have a backbone and aren't easily intimidated.

Control of TCSO was forfeited after Whaley retired from his undersheriff position. It was the undisputed truth that Whaley was truly in charge during his tenure. It was also undisputed that Wittman took a backseat and focused on being a politician. Unfortunately, Wittman placed his faith with people that had agenda's and perceived political power after Whaley retired. Now, TCSO is reaping what was sewn from those poorly made appointments.

There are so many facts at play here that need to be exposed. They are going to be exposed. The 'acting' Sheriff will erode the Office of Sheriff into an unimaginable mess if elected. I can assure you, the true facts (not campaign promises) will be his undoing. Also, the cookie-cutter term of "mud slinging" doesn't apply. I openly challenge anyone that can dispute the true facts that I have. The Office of the Sheriff can (and will) be salvaged with Whaley.

*Cory Kuykendall*
*Visalia, California*

**Editor's response:** *You have not really said anything here, apart from your claim of witnesses in the know of facts that need to be exposed. You even claim a few facts for yourself. I openly challenge you, if you've seen fit to comment thus far, to disclose them.*

# Brooke Crain Places Second at BMX World Cup in England

STAFF REPORTS

Brooke Crain of Visalia showed her consistency by riding to a second-place finish for the second consecutive year at round one of the UCI BMX Supercross World Cup in Manchester, England on April 19th.

*Brooke Crain (Photo by USA Cycling/Mike Carruth)*

Starting from gate 2 in the final, next to defending world champion Caroline Buchanan of Australia, Crain stayed on Buchanan's wheel throughout the race but was unable to find a way to move past the rainbow jersey. Venezuela's Stefany Hernandez followed Crain across the line to claim third place.

Crain's American teammates Dani George (Palmdale) and Felicia Stancil (Lake Villa, IL) did not advance past the semifinal round and finished 13th and 15th, respectively. U.S. national champion Alise Post (Saint Cloud, MN) suffered a knee injury in practice and was unable to compete in the event.

Crain has been racing ever since her parents bought her a bike when she was six years old. After a few visits to the BMX track in Tulare to watch her brother race, she decided to also give racing a try. By the time she was nine, she started winning top-3 titles in national age group rankings. In 2009, as a 16-year-old, she won two world titles and a national title.

After graduating from Mt. Whitney High School in 2011, Crain started focusing her efforts on BMX racing. With her parents as her coaches, and with the acceptance that cycling success would cost her a typical teenage social life, she became a full-time BMX racer.

During her racing career, Crain, who celebrated her 21st birthday last week, has earned a 7th place finish in the elite women division at the 2013 UCI BMX World Championships in Auckland, New Zealand; 3rd place in the junior women division at the 2011 UCI BMX World Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark; and 2nd place in the junior division at the 2010 UCI BMX World Championships in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. She is also a two-time 2009 UCI World Champion for 16-year-old girls, and 15-16-year-old girls Cruiser Champion at races in Adelaide, Australia.

*Brooke Crain in action. (Photo by USA Cycling/Jerry Landrum)*

CYCLE THIS PAPER

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# Valley Scene

## Local Events to Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

Parades and cultural events will help Tulare and Kings counties celebrate Cinco de Mayo, which marks the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. Over the years, the holiday has evolved into a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage in the U.S., and South Valley residents will have several events to choose from this weekend.

On Friday, May 2, the Kings Art Center, 605 N. Douty St., Hanford, will host a Cinco De Mayo celebration from 5:30-8pm. The event will feature margaritas, music, a make-your-own-taco bar, and a variety of beer from San Diego's Green Flash Brewery. Tickets are $25. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

The City of Porterville will be the site of four days of events when Comision Honorifica Mexicana Americana presents its annual Cinco de Mayo Grand Fiestas May 1-4, highlighted by a downtown parade starting at 10am on Saturday, May 3, and activities from 1-7pm on Sunday, May 4, in Veterans Park. Other events include the Cinco de Mayo Pageant at 6pm on Thursday, May 1, at the Porterville Community Center, and the Cinco de Mayo Dia de los Ninos at Granite Hills High School from 10am to 1pm on Friday, May 2.

California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Tulare Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will present the Cinco De Mayo Parade and festival in Downtown Visalia on May 3. The parade starts at 10:30am at Main and Floral Streets. The festival will begin at noon at Garden Street Plaza. For more information, call 734-6020.

Also on May 3, Hanford Chamber of Commerce and Hanford Parks and Recreation will host the 3rd Annual Cinco De Mayo Celebration at Hanford Civic Park from 11am-10pm. Food, craft and information booths, kids activities and a beer garden will be featured. Free entertainment includes Conjunto Sagrado, Aztex Dancers, Kings Cultural Center, Folklorico Dancers & Mariachi and New Monsanto. For more information call 585-2525.

## 3rd Annual Downtown Expo to Add to Visalia Nightlife on May 17th

Friday night, May 17, just got even better for Tulare County residents who frequent Downtown Visalia. Already a hub of activity with Blues, Brews & BBQ, the 3rd Annual Downtown Expo will take place at Church and Main Streets from 5pm to 11pm, allowing patrons to enjoy both events while raising funds for Breast Cancer Research and the Downtown Visalia Foundation.

"Downtown Visalia is where my heart is, "said Sam Sciacca, co-owner of Chelsea Street Boutique. "It's where I grew up, where I delivered newspapers as a kid and where I opened my business. By bringing more and more people downtown to enjoy this event and others like it, we support our local economy, local families and businesses while we raise money for a great cause."

The event includes professional chef demonstrations; a fashion show featuring Chelsea Street Boutique, Sugar Plums, Essentials and Annabelle's Bridal; classic cars and hot rods from the 25th Annual Breakfast Lions Club Car Show; demonstrations from other downtown merchants; and a live performance by Run 4 Cover and dance.

Call the Downtown Visalians at 732-7737, or Expo Chairman Sam Sciacca at 308-1090 for more information.

## Porterville Fair Scheduled for May 14-18

The 66th Annual Porterville Fair will take place May 14-18. The Porterville Fair features a wide variety of entertainment including Vorian, a "Transforming" jet dragster, monster truck rides, Noah's Way Exotic Petting Zoo and Barnyard Racing ducks, turkeys and pigs.

The Fair will also showcase J-Live's Next Big Thing Talent Competition and a barn full of FFA and 4-H livestock.

And so kids of all ages can have even more fun, the fair will also feature Walk on Water, Bungee Jump, and Parachute Rocket, along with a complete carnival and more.

This fair with a true community flair is supported by local donations and sponsorships and does receive monies from the state of California.

The 2014 Porterville Fair will be held at 2700 W. Teapot Dome Avenue, two miles west of Highway 65 Porterville. For more information, call 781-6582.

*The Oak Ridge Boys*

## The Oak Ridge Boys to Headline Visalia Fox Theatre on Tuesday, May 13th

STAFF REPORTS

The Oak Ridge Boys are coming the Visalia Fox Theatre on Tuesday, May 13 for a 7:30pm show.

Theirs is one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the music industry. The four-part harmonies and upbeat songs of The Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of country hits and a number one pop smash, earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA and ACM awards, and garnered a host of other industry and fan accolades.

Every time they step before an audience, the Oaks bring four decades of charted singles, and 50 years of tradition, to their stage show. And each remains as enthusiastic about the process as they have ever been.

"When I go on stage, I get the same feeling I had the first time I sang with The Oak Ridge Boys," says lead singer Duane Allen. "This is the only job I've ever wanted to have."

"Like everyone else in the group," adds bass singer extraordinaire, Richard Sterban, "I was a fan of the Oaks before I became a member. I'm still a fan of the group today. Being in The Oak Ridge Boys is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream."

The two, along with tenor Joe Bonsall and baritone William Lee Golden, comprise one of country's truly legendary acts. Their string of hits includes the country-pop chart-topper "Elvira," as well as "Bobbie Sue," "Dream On," "Thank God for Kids," "American Made," "I Guess It Never Hurts to Hurt Sometimes," "Fancy Free," "Gonna Take a Lot of River" and many others. In 2009, they covered a White Stripes song, receiving accolades from rock reviewers.

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*Doc's Holliday*

*Feral Fauna*

## Three Rivers Music Festival Offers Full Day of Music and Family Fun on May 10

The Three Rivers Music Festival on Saturday, May 10th offers a full day and evening of music, games and food for the whole family. Bluegrass, folk and rock bands will supply continuous live music from 11:30am to 11pm. Headlining the event will be Doc's Holiday, The Wes Hardin Band and Feral Fauna.

Other highlights include a beer and wine bar, dancing, artisan vendor booths and an extensive silent auction of original artwork, jewelry, and local restaurant, motel and adventure gift certificates.

Children 12 and under are admitted free to enjoy a full day of games in the arena plus a water slide, dunk tank, face painting, crafts, music and balloon animals. A special area with toys and activities has been set aside for tiny tots.

The festival will be held at Lion's Roping Arena, 42490 N. Kaweah River Road, Three Rivers. (Follow signs from Highway 198 and North Fork Drive.)

Tickets are $15. Children 12 and under are admitted free. All proceeds benefit the non-profit Emergency Aid Alliance, which supports local residents suffering extreme hardship due to health, age and serious emergencies.

For more information, visit http://3r-aid.org or www.facebook.com/ThreeRiversMusic Festival, or call 561-4021 or 280-7297.

# Arts Visalia Presents Reiko Yoshimoto's 'Painting with Paper'

KEVIN BOWMAN

Throughout the month of May, Arts Visalia is proud to feature artworks by artist Reiko Yoshimoto in an exhibition titled "Painting with Paper." The title of the exhibition stems from the method of art that is employed in the majority of the works on display. Known as chigiri-e, it is a collage process where the image is composed of pieces of colored paper, as opposed to paint.

Chigiri-e, pronounced "chee-gee-ree-eh," is a traditional Japanese art form dating from the Heian Period, 794 to 1185 AD. The Heian period was a very rich age for Japanese poetry, literature and art. The word "chigiru" means to tear and "e" is an image, therefore an image produced by tearing pieces of specially made and dyed paper, washi. Yoshimoto started taking classes in chigiri-e in 1993 and she continues to attend classes while perfecting the technique. Much of Reiko's work reproduces the classic art of many artists, but in the medium of torn paper.

*A landscape painting by Reiko Yoshimoto.*

The technique of chigiri-e uses the unique characteristics of the washi paper, taking advantage of its texture, malleability, coloring and ductile properties to produce a "collage." The artist, using her hands, tears, wets, twists, stretches, separates fibers and applies the worked paper on to another surface, traditionally paper scrolls or other paper media. Many works of chigiri-e, including those in this exhibition, appear from a distance to be watercolors, but upon close examination, the "paper" qualities become apparent. Flowers or plant images are typical and traditional subjects, and many such works are included in this show.

Also showcased in this exhibition are works in the Bunka Shishu method of Japanese embroidered art, a method that dates back to the early 20th century. Included in the Bunka works by Yoshimoto in the exhibition are a wonderful group of reproductions of woodblock print images by the renowned woodblock artist Ando Hiroshige.

Reiko Nakamura Yoshimoto was born in 1928 in Hiroshima, Japan, and attended schools in Japan through high school. At a very early age, she was recognized for her artistic ability. In 1945, while in high school, she experienced and survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

After World War II ended, she met Tadato Jim Yoshimoto, a U.S. Army

Continued on p. 24 »

# Visalia Community Players Present 'Last of the Boys'

Young or old, everyone has heard or can identify with music of the 1960s, woven into the American fabric by such artists as The Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan. "Last of the Boys," which provides a glimpse into the lives of Vietnam vets 30 years after the war, uses the music of that era to put us simultaneously in the present and the past.

*Performing in "Last of the Boys" are (l-r): Karl Schoettler as Ben, Diana Carson-Walker as Lorraine, Katie Welch as Salyer, and Aaron Johnson as Jeeter.*

The setting for the play is Ben's (Karl Schoettler) home atop a caustic land site, which is visited each summer by his Vietnam buddy Jeeter (Aaron Johnson). The vets' 30-year friendship has turned tense with the death of Ben's father and their differing views on the war. Ben, supporting the view of Robert McNamara, describes the action in Vietnam as a necessary "tactical exercise." Jeeter views it as devastation that McNamara could have halted, reducing the body count.

Jeeter, having picked up Salyer (Katie Welch) on the way to the funeral of Ben's father, brings her to Ben for approval. He is in love and wants his buddy to tell him to marry her. Salyer, the daughter of a soldier killed in Vietnam, is enamored by anyone who was in the war, searching for details as she wants to know her father.

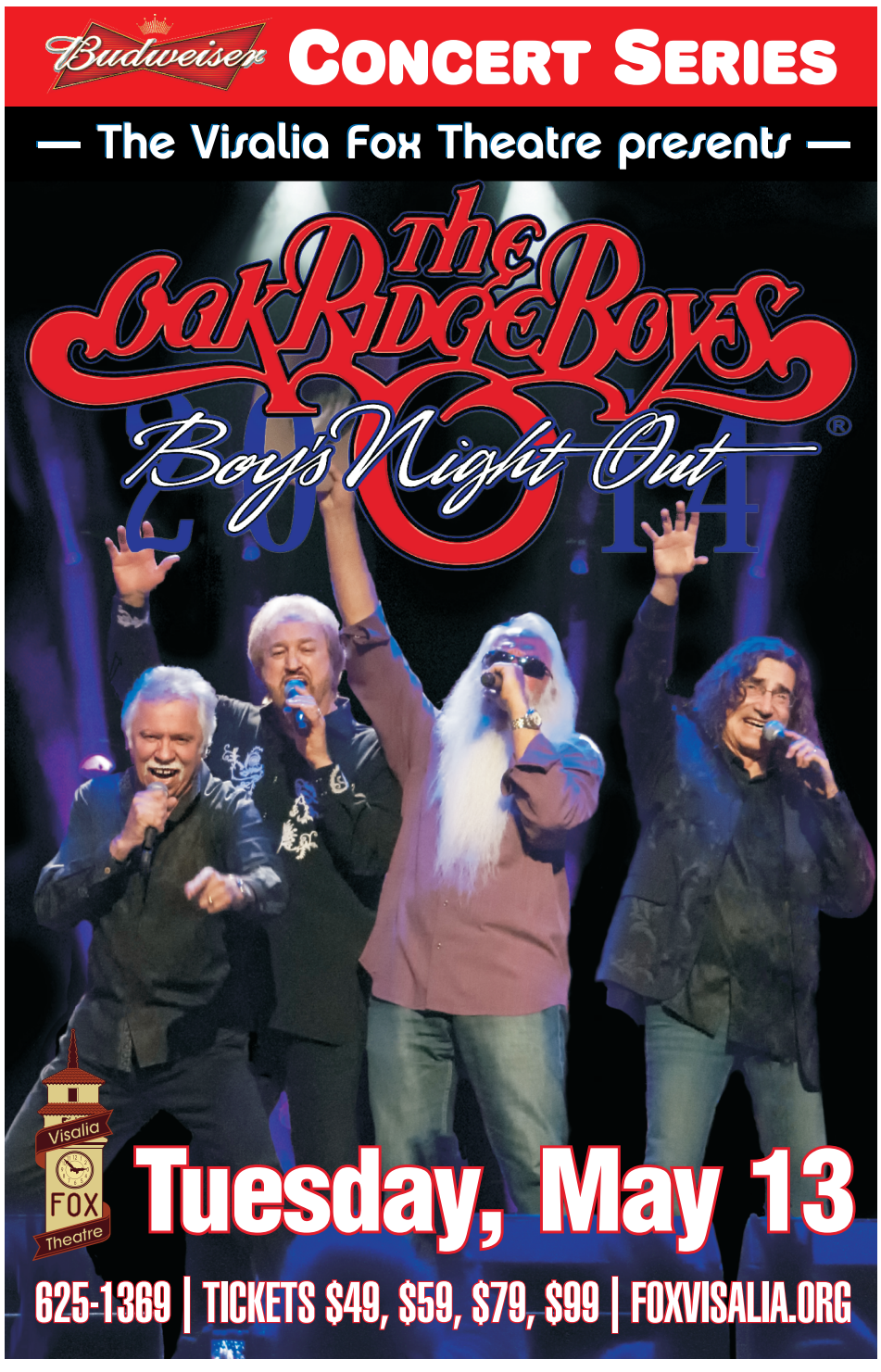
Salyer's mother Lorraine (Diana Carson-Walker) traces Salyer through credit card charges, and following at a safe distance, ultimately finds Jeeter in Ben's yard. Lorraine wants her daughter back, but their relationship is strained. Lorraine never told Salyer her father was drafted, but rather said that he just left. When Salyer learns the truth, she is crushed.

The relationships among Ben, Jeeter, Salyer and Lorraine are further complicated by the appearance of a young soldier (Ethan de Malignon). Who is he? What is his mission?

The cast finds the play intriguing and believes the audience will too. Johnson commented, "You'll laugh. You'll cry, and the music is wonderful."

"When my daughter was in Iraq, she could call me on her cell phone," noted Carson-Walker. "It was very different during the Vietnam War. The play is intense and interesting and will take you everywhere."

Continued on p. 24 »



*Gardens & Villa*

*James Supercave*

## Sound N Vision to Present Cellar Door Shows Featuring James Supercave, Gardens & Villa

Sound N Vision will present a 9:30pm show with James Supercave and OMO on Friday, May 9, and follow that up with Gardens & Villa and Rogues at an 8pm show on Saturday, May 10. Both shows will be at the Cellar Door in downtown Visalia.

Hailing from Los Angeles, James Supercave consists of Joaquin Pastor (lead vocals, guitar, piano), Patrick Logothetti (synths, keyboards), Andres Villalobos (guitar, backing vocals) and Jaysun Rickards (bass). The new band has already gained attention as a result of their explosive live show, which has landed them on tour with indie rock royalty bands Warpaint and Future Islands. James Supercave music is often compared to like-minded artists such as Foster the People and MGMT.

Fresno's lovely female piano-playing soul singer OMO will kick off the night, making her Cellar Door debut. Tickets for the 21+ show are $7.

Gardens & Villa is the project of five college friends from Santa Barbara. After releasing their acclaimed self-titled debut album in 2011, the band toured relentlessly and honed their live show to near perfection. This resulted in the band being asked to play festivals such as Coachella and Outside Lands.

Three years later, the band has

**Continued on p. 24 »**

## 'Visalia High School Art Showcase 2014' Runs May 2nd through 18th

The Creative Center's Jon Ginsburg Gallery will host "The Visalia High School Art Showcase 2014," a juried art exhibit featuring the art of Visalia high school students, May 2-18.

This showcase is an opportunity for Visalia high school art students to professionally present their selected work in a public gallery setting. Five Visalia high schools – Mt. Whitney, Redwood, Golden West, El Diamante and Central Valley Christian – have been invited to participate bringing in a variety of mediums. Awards will be given to the students in several different categories, as well as a "Best of Show" and "People's Choice" honor.

*"Koi" by Sunshine Sedillo (Mt. Whitney)*

The "Preview" Art Reception will be held in conjunction with the First Friday Downtown Art Walk on Friday, May 2, from 6-8pm. The "Awards" Reception is scheduled for Friday, May 9, from 5-7pm, with the awards presentation at 6pm. Both events are free.

The Jon Ginsburg Gallery, 410 E. Race St., Visalia, is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10am-2pm. Please check in at the business office at 606 N. Bridge St.

## Main Street Hanford Launches 2014 Thursday Night Market Place

"Take Me Downtown," the Thursday Night Market Place hosted by Main Street Hanford, starts this evening in Downtown Hanford. The event, which will be held from 5:30-9pm every Thursday for 22 weeks (through September 25) will kick-off its 14th year with live entertainment by the band August.

Thursday Night Market Place is a weekly celebration featuring a Certified Farmers' Market with a huge variety of farm fresh produce including peaches, strawberries, blueberries, cherries, squash, onions and spinach. A variety of food vendors will offer delicious treats, including pulled pork sandwiches, roasted corn on the cob, pizza, funnel cakes with strawberries and tri-tip sandwiches. There will be pony rides, bounce houses for the kids, and performances by top local musical entertainment.

There is something for everyone with a special theme every Thursday including Baseball Fever Night, Paint Downtown Pink, celebrating breast cancer awareness, Night of Vintage Treasures and the popular NASL Appreciation Night.

Main Street Hanford is the leader and coordinator for the continued revitalization of downtown Hanford. As a certified California Main Street community, members of the organization and numerous volunteers work to bring quality events to Hanford to promote downtown as the heart and soul of the city.

For more information, call 582-9457, or visit www.mainstreethanford.com or the Main Street Hanford page on Facebook.

Budweiser

# MUSIC

## May

**May 1-3 – Great Western Fan Festival**
The Great Western Fan Festival is the largest Christian Music Event of its kind west of the Rockies. Some of the performers include The Browns, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, Greater Vision, The Hoppers and Triumphant Quartet. Held at the Visalia Convention Center, evening concerts are from 6-10:30pm. Afternoon Showcases Friday and Saturday are from 11:30am-4pm. For information go to FanFestivals.com. For tickets, call (800) 965-9324.

**May 1 – 3's A Crowd – 7-10pm**
On Thursdays, 3's A Crowd performs at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

**May 9 – Marble Fork Band – 6:30-8:30pm**
The Marble Fork Band performs at Cafe 210 on the second Friday of each month. The ensemble offers original music featuring a Chapman Stick 10-string instrument, acoustic guitar and percussion. Cafe 210 is located at 210 W. Center, Visalia. For information, visit 210life.com.

**May 9 – Motel Drive – 9:30pm**
Motel Drive will perform at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

**May 10 – Three Rivers Music Festival 2014 – 11am-11pm**
A music festival to benefit Emergency Aid Alliance will be held at Lions Roping Arena, Three Rivers. Featured bands include The Well, Richie Blue, Confluence, Steadfast, Farewell to the Surface, Jeremy Weikel, Mountain Men, Feral Fauna, Twisted Embers, The Wes Hardin Band and Doc Holiday. Fire art will also be featured. A children's area will include games and crafts, a water slide, dunk tank, face painting, obstacle course and live music. Tickets, $11, may be purchased online at 3r-aid.org.

**May 10 – COS Season Finale Choral Concert "Baroque to Broadway – 7:30pm**
The College of Sequoias Chamber Singers and Concert Choir will perform the music of Antonio Vivaldi, George and Ira Gershwin and Jule Styne at the COS Theater. Tickets are $10 general admission and $8 for students and seniors. For tickets call 730-3907.

**May 10 – Johnny Cash Tribute – 7:30pm**
A Johnny Cash tribute featuring James Garner takes the stage of The Lindsay Community Theater, 190 N. Elmwood Ave. For information, visit lindsaycommunitytheater.com.
May 13 – The Oak Ridge Boys – 7:30pm
Budweiser Concert Series and the Visalia Fox Theatre present The Oak Ridge Boys at the Visalia Fox Theatre, 300 W. Main St. For information, visit foxvisalia.com.

**May 16 – Sourdough Slim and his Saddle Pals – 7pm**
Sourdough Slim will bring back his musical art and zany, deadpan humor to the Mavericks Coffee House. He will also be joined by the Saddle Pals. Tickets, $25, are available at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell, Visalia or by calling 624-1400.

**May 18 – One Love: A Family Music Festival–11am-3pm**
Exeter's Trinity Lutheran Church host 1st annual family reggae/worship music festival. One Love is a family-friendly event open to the community at large that features food and music. An outdoor stage will be set up featuring Club Paradise, a local act that plays a mix of reggae standards and hymns. The event is free. There is a playground for children adjacent to the stage and booths will be set up for food and crafts. People are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets for the lawn. TLC is located at 420 Sequoia Dr., Exeter. For information, visit tlcexeter.com.

**May 21 – Jugfest 2014 – 1pm**
106-7 KJUG Country and Budweiser will present Jugfest 2014 at Plaza Park staring Justin Moore and featuring daytime acoustic shows with Collin Raye, Frankie Ballard, Jamie Lynn Spears and John King. The event is free. For details visit kjug.com/jugfest_2014.

**May 23 – Brad Wilson at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm**
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

**May 24 – Brenn Hill – 7pm**
Brenn Hill will perform at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. For information, visit mavericksscoffeehouse.com.

## June

**June 6 – Electric Grease at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm**
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

**June 6 – Electric Grease at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm**
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

**June 7 – Belinda Gail – 7pm**
Belinda Gail will perform at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. For information, visit mavericksscoffeehouse.com.

## August

**August 1 – Mo Fo Party Band at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm**
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

## September

**Sept. 5 – Andrew J. Magnuson at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm**
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

# EVENTS

## May

**May 1 – AAUW Springtime Book Sale – 10am-8:30pm**
AAUW spring fundraiser in the Sequoia Mall in Visalia. The money raised goes toward scholarships. For information, call 734-4911.

**May 1-4 – Cinco de Mayo Grand Fiestas – 10am**
The City of Porterville will be the site of four days of events when Comision Honorifica Mexicana Americana presents its annual Cinco de Mayo Grand Fiestas May 1-4, highlighted by a downtown parade starting at 10am on Saturday, May 3, and activities from 1-7pm on Sunday, May 4, in Veterans Park. Other events include the Cinco de Mayo Pageant at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, at the Porterville Community Center, and the Cinco de Mayo Dia de los Ninos at Granite Hills High School from 10am to 1pm on Friday, May 2.

**May 1-Sept. 25 – 14th Annual Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm**
Main Street Hanford will kick off the 14th Annual Thursday Night Market Place with live entertainment by the band August. The Market Place will be held every Thursday in Main Street Hanford. Fresh produce, food vendors, kids activities and live entertainment are featured. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

**May 2 – Porterville Chamber First Friday Coffee – 7am**
Enjoy the aroma of higher profits with the Porterville Chamber featuring breakfast, networking and business information at the Galaxy 9 Theatre, 631 N. Indiana. For Information, visit portervillechamber.org.

**May 2 – College of the Sequoias President's Cup Golf Tournament**
A fundraiser for COS Athletic Programs will be held at the Visalia Country Club. Cost is $200 for players. Sponsorships are available at $250 or $500. For information, call 730-3912.

**May 2 – Medical Mission to Honduras Rummage Sale – 8am-4pm**
A Rummage Sale to benefit the Medical Mission to Honduras will be held at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 120 S. Hall St., Visalia. For information, 732-4821.

**May 2 – Cinco De Mayo – 5:30-8pm**
Margaritas, music, a make-your-own taco bar, and a variety of beer from San Diego's Green Flash Brewery will be featured at the Kings Art Center, 605 N. Douty St., Hanford. Tickets are $25. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

**May 2 – Bark for Life – 9am-1pm**
American Cancer Society Bark for Life will be held at Exeter Bark Park (F and Palm streets). This is a fundraising relay event. For information, visit relayforlife.org/exeterca.

**May 2 – Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm**
To kick-off the Hanford Thursday Night Market Place season, Poor Man's Poison will be the featured entertainment. Fresh produce, beer garden, live band, D.J., local vendors, kids activities and theme nights are featured every Thursday night May through September in downtown Hanford. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

**May 3-4 – 25th Annual Tulare County Renaissance Faire**
The Guild of St. Mortimer presents the 25th Annual Renaissance Faire at Plaza Park. Tickets, $10; children seniors and military (with ID) $7. For information, visit www.stmortimer.org or facebook.com/TCRF1.

**May 3 – First Saturday Friends of the Library Used Book Sale – 10am-2pm**
The Friends of the Tulare Public Library will hold its used book sale in the Library Cafe.

**May 3 – Another Day Fighting for A Cure – 4-10pm**
A fundraiser for cancer patients and their families will be held at Ritchie Barn, 16338 Ave. 308, Visalia. Wine tasting, tri-tip dinner, dessert bar, fashion show, photo booth, silent auction, and prizes will be featured. Lindsay Honor Group will perform. Tickets, $50, sold at Tint Master Window Tinting, 6420 S. Mooney Blvd., #D, Visalia. For information, call 280-1095.

**May 3 – 14th Annual Car & Motorcycle Show – 9am-3pm**
The Rollin' Relics Car Club of Porterville will present this show at Veterans Park, on the corner of Henderson and Newcomb in Porterville. Spectators admitted free. Pre-registration entry fee is $25. The show is open to all year models, with no restriction, as well as under construction vehicles. DJ Roy Macomber will spin the music at the Friday night Cruise Night and Saturday during the show. Trophy presentation and 50/50 raffle will close the show. Proceeds go towards area youth and community programs. For information, call 359-2761.

**May 3 – Tulare Public Library Used Book Sale – 9am**
Friends of the Tulare Public Library's used book sale will now be held in the space originally created for the Library Café. The sale is held on the first Saturday of each month.

**May 3 – Cinco De Mayo Parade & Festival – 10:30am**
California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Tulare Kings Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will present the Cinco De Mayo Parade and festival in Downtown Visalia. The parade starts at 10:30am from Main and Floral Streets. The festival will begin at noon at Garden Street Plaza. For information, call 734-6020.

**May 3 – Hanford Cinco De Mayo – 11am-10pm**
Hanford Chamber of Commerce and Hanford Parks and Recreation will host the 3rd Annual Cinco De Mayo Celebration at Hanford Civic Park. Food, craft and information booths, kids activities and a beer garden will be feature. Free entertainment includes Conjunto Sagrado, Aztex Dancers, Kings Cultural Center,

# VENT CALENDAR

Folklorico Dancers & Mariachi and New Monsanto. For information call 585-2525.

**May 3 – Saturday Nite Fights – 3 pm**
The Northside Boxing Club of Visalia will host its youth amateur boxing event at the Wittman Community Center, 315 W. Pearl St., Visalia. Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for youth and children under 5 are free. For information call 733-5423.

**May 3 – CASA Night at the Races**
A fundraiser to benefit CASA of Kings County will be held at the Lemoore Raceway, on Hwy 41 south of 198 Hwy. Tickets, $10, available by calling 924-9229. For information, visit lemooreraceway.com.

**May 3 – Solar System Extravaganza – 7:30-10pm**
A short presentation on the solar system will be given by Tulare Astronomical Association members, a tour of the spring constellations and viewing the moon and planets through the TAA telescopes will be held at the Arthur Purcell Observatory and Astrophysics Center, 9242 Avenue 184, Tulare. Tickets are $5. Presentations will be held at 8 and 8:30 pm. For information, visit tulareastro.org.

**May 4 – 13th Annual Garden Party – 5pm**
Exeter Chamber and Festival of Arts presents this annual event at downtown Exeter's Mixter Park. It features dinner, entertainment, and a live and silent auction. For information and tickets, contact the chamber at 592-2919.

**May 6 – Louis F. Ruiz Golf Invitational – 8am**
A golf invitational to support the Ruiz 4 Kids Scholarship Program will be held at the Valley Oaks Golf Course in Visalia. Breakfast, golfing, barbecue lunch, appetizers and awards will be featured. Every entry receives a golf ball for the Chopper Dropper: closest ball to the hole wins a trip for two. For information, visit ruiz4kids.org.

**May 6 – Porterville Job Fair – 9am-12pm**
A Job Fair will be held in the Porterville College Gym, 100 E. College Ave. For information, call Porterville Employment Connection, 788-1400, or visit portervillecollege.edu.

**May 6 – Ruth Medlin Consulting Ribbon-Cutting – 10am**
Ruth Medlin and her consulting business will be welcomed to the Visalia Chamber at the chamber office, Mangano Room, 220 N. Santa Fe. For information, visit visaliachamber.org.

**May 6 – NeeNeez Hair 4 Starz Ribbon Cutting – 4pm**
Hanford Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon-cutting and grand opening presentation for NeeNeez Hair 4 Starz at 1240 W. 8th St. For information call 582-0483.

**May 7 – 2014 Tulare County Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony – 9am**
Tulare County Sheriff's Department will be honoring fallen law enforcement officers of years past, and adding the name of Deputy Jeremy Meyst to the memorial, at the corner of Woodland and Burrel, Visalia. Acting Sheriff Mike Boudreaux will be the master of ceremonies and Merrilyn Rapozo-Wilson, a surviving spouse, will be the guest speaker.

**May 8 – Main Street Hanford Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm**
Rockville will be the featured entertainment at the Thursday Night Market Place in downtown Hanford. The theme for the evening will be Under The Big Top. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

**May 9 – Leadercast Kings 2014 – 8am-4pm**
A national broadcast will be live via Satellite at Koinonia Christian Fellowship, 12536 Armona Road, Hanford. Kings EDC and Adventist Health are sponsoring the event. Speakers include Malcom Gladwell, Andy Stanley, Henry Cloud, Desmond Tutu, Simon Sinek and Laura Bush. For information visit facebook.com/leadercasthanford.

**May 9 – Exeter Ambassadors – 12-1:30pm**
Exeter Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will have a no-host lunch at Fortune Cookie Chinese Restaurant, 1110 W. Visalia Rd., Suite 110. For information, 592-2919.

**May 9 – 9th Annual Habitat for Humanity Birdhouse Auction – 6:30pm**
Local restaurants and wineries will join Habitat for Humanity for the 9th Annual Birdhouse Auction at the Holiday Inn. Tickets are $75 or $600 for a table of 8. Sponsorships are available. For information, visit hfhtc.org.

**May 9 – Tulare Historical Museum Reverse Drawing – 6pm**
Tickets are $50 and the top prize is $1,500. Drawings will be held in the museum's Heritage Art Gallery with hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Winners need not be present. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

**May 10 – Exeter's 11th Annual Garden Walk – 9am-2pm**
Explore 5 private gardens in the Exeter area. Refreshments will be hosted by By the Water Tower Antiques in their Victorian garden, 141 S. B Street. Tulare/Kings Master Gardeners will present a free Home Gardening Festival in Joyner Park, on Pine Street between B & C Streets, from 10am-2pm. Tickets for the walk are $20 and are available at the Exeter Chamber of Commerce. For information, call 592-2919.

**May 10 – Woodlake Lions Rodeo Parade – 10 am**
The parade will kick off the 61st Annual Woodlake Lions Rodeo. For information, visit woodlakelionsrodeo.org.

**May 10 – Spring Book Sale – 10am-2pm**
The Friends of the Kings County Library will sponsor its Spring Book Sale at Hanford Branch Library, 401 N. Douty St.
May 10 – Rose Ann Vuich Dinner & Democratic Recognition Program – 5:30pm
Assemblyman Luiz Alejo and Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones will be the keynote speakers at this event in the Lamp Liter Inn Grand Ballroom. Cocktails, silent auction, recognition program and VIP reception featured. Tickets are $75. VIP package of $1,000 includes table for eight, pre-dinner reception, full-page ad in program book and event banner. For information, call 372-2126.

# COMMUNITY

## May

**May 1 – Oh Boy, What Do I Do Now? – 7:30pm**
International speaker John Q. Adams will offer an evening of prayer and practical help in a free, Bible-based talk at the Visalia Convention Center. The event is sponsored by First Church of Christ, Visalia. For information, call (805) 966-9647.

**May 3 – Walk for Research Funds – 9am-noon**
Central Valley Parkinson's Support Group will host this event – featuring walking, band music, exercise, massage, information booths, food and coffee – in Blain Park on South Court Street in Visalia. The honoree will be Ed Lagrutta, long-time Visalia music instructor.

**May 8 – Valley Oak Quilt Guild Meeting – 10am**
The Valley Oak Quilt Guild will meet at Tulare Community Church, 820 N. Gem, Tulare. For information, call 798-0208.
May 8 – Tulare Kings Mensa – 5:30pm
Tulare Kings Mensa, the South Valley's high IQ society, will meet at Panera Bread (near Target), 4103 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, for coffee, bagels, sandwiches and conversation. Prospective members encouraged to attend. For more info, call 280-9774.

**May 8 – Visalia Philatelic Society Auction – 6:15pm**
Visalia Philatelic Society will meet at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church, 1111 S. Conyer St. For information, call 686-5067 or 734-6353.

**May 9 - Family Resource Centers (FRC) Children's Art Show and Open House (in Spanish) – 4-6:30pm**
The Woodlake Family Resource Center (FRC) is partnering with the Cutler-Orosi, Earlimart, and Lindsay FRCs to simultaneously host a same-day Mental Health Awareness event in Spanish for families and community. The centers will display children's artwork, host games and information booths; and conduct a mental health topic panel consisting of mental health providers and individuals with lived experience. The events will be held at four resource centers: 168 N Valencia, Woodlake; 40802 Road 128, Orosi; 114 N. Front St, Earlimart; and 400 E Hermosa St., Lindsay. For information, visit tularehhsa.org.

**May 10 – Just Walk - 8-9am**
Visalia Parks and Recreation will host a Walk with a Doc program on the second Saturday each month through December at Riverway Sports Park, 3611 N. Dinuba Blvd.

**May 10 – Second Saturday Book Club – 11am**
The Second Saturday Book Club will meet at the Tulare Public Library to discuss "The Paris Architect" by Charles Belfoure. To register for book clubs, call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk.

**May 10 – High Tea in the Garden – 12:30pm**
Trinity Lutheran Church will hold High Tea in the Garden with an afternoon of fashion and entertainment. Tickets are $20, or $160 for a reserved table of 8. Call 592-4070 for information.

**May 11 – Trinity Lutheran Church Tea – 12:30-3:30pm**
Trinity Lutheran Church will be hosting its annual "Trinity Tea in the Garden." For information, call 592-4070.

**May 14 – Exeter Woman's Club Meeting – 1:30am-1pm**
EWC meets September through June on the second Tuesday of each month for lunch at 11:30am. For information, visit exeterwomansclub.com.

**May 16 – First Heritage Association Scholarship**
Porterville Fair Heritage Association will present the first Heritage Scholarship as the Junior Livestock Sale at the Porterville Fairgrounds. The Heritage Animal auction proceeds go toward youth related programs, exhibits and future projects at the Porterville Fairgrounds.

**May 16 – Computer Basics 1 – 8:30am**
The Tulare Public Library will offer a class in computer basics. To register, call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk.

**May 16 – United Way of Tulare County Mixer – 5-6:30pm**
United Way of Tulare County and local chambers will hold a Business After Hours Mixer at 1601 E. Prosperity Ave., Tulare. Meet their new staff and enjoy food, drinks and door prizes. For information, call 685-1766.

**May 17 – EUHS Blood Drive – 8am-12pm**
Central California Blood Center and the Exeter High School will hold a blood drive. A bloodmobile will be on site at EUHS. Donors will receive a T-shirt and a voucher for a free regular size A&W root beer float, plus a variety of discounts from Valley businesses for dining, recreation, entertainment and services. For information, call Jason Welch at 592-2127.

**May 21 – Spanish Computer Class – 9am**
The Tulare Public Library will offer a class on an introduction to the internet in Spanish. To register, call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk.

**May 22 – Visalia Philatelic Society Auction – 6:15pm**
Visalia Philatelic Society will meet at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church, 1111 S. Conyer St. For information, call 686-5067 or 734-6353.

**May 23 – Computer Basics 2 – 8:30am**
The Tulare Public Library will offer a class on computer basics. To register, call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk.

**May 29 – The Last Thursday Book Club – 6pm**
"The Art Forger" by B. A. Shapiro will be discussed at the Tulare Public Library. To register for book clubs, call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk.

**May 30 - Mental Health Awareness Night at the Rawhide Baseball Park – 7 p.m.**
The Tulare County Department of Mental Health will collaborate with the Visalia Rawhide baseball organization to host Mental Health Awareness Night. The Rawhide team will be wearing turquoise-colored jerseys in honor of the campaign; and the first 500 through the gate will receive a complimentary t-shirt. For information, visit tularehhsa.org.

**May 31 – Sci/Fi Book Club – 1pm**
The Sci Fi Book Club meets the last Friday of every month at the Tulare Public Library. To register for book clubs call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk.

**June 12 – Tulare Kings Mensa – 5:30pm**
Tulare Kings Mensa, the South Valley's high IQ society, will meet at Panera Bread (near Target), 4103 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, for coffee, bagels, sandwiches and conversation. Prospective members encouraged to attend. For more info, call 280-9774.

**See more events online**
**ourvalleyvoice.com**

*"Cutie and the Boxer."*

# Visalia Fox Theatre to Show Indie Film 'Cutie and the Boxer' on May 15

The Visalia Fox Theatre's Independent Film Series continues with "Cutie and the Boxer" at 7:30pm on Thursday, May 15. The film won the 2013 Sundance Film Festival's "Best Director Award" and was a nominee for 2013 Academy Award for "Best Documentary Feature."

A reflection on love, sacrifice and the creative spirit, this candid New York story explores the chaotic 40-year marriage of renowned "boxing" painter Ushio Shinohara and his artist wife, Noriko. As a rowdy, confrontational young artist in Tokyo, Ushio seemed destined for fame, but met with little commercial success after he moved to New York City in 1969, seeking international recognition. When 19-year-old Noriko moved to New York to study art, she fell in love with Ushio, abandoning her education to become the wife and assistant to an unruly husband.

Over the course of their marriage, the roles have shifted. Now 80, Ushio struggles to establish his artistic legacy, while Noriko is at last being recognized for her own art – a series of drawings entitled "Cutie," depicting her challenging past with Ushio. Spanning four decades, the film is a moving portrait of a couple wrestling with the eternal themes of sacrifice, disappointment and aging, against a background of lives dedicated to art.

The film is presented by Stella Artois, The Arts Consortium and Williams, Brodersen & Pritchett, LLP.

For tickets ($6, $8) or more information, visit www.foxvisalia.org or call 625-1369.

# Bill Dillberg to Show Photography at Brandon-Mitchell Gallery

DONNA OROZCO

Bill Dillberg's photographic talents have been seen in many places in Visalia. Since his retirement, he and his wife, Jan, have enjoyed traveling, especially to locations where there are many opportunities for taking interesting photographs. They have traveled across the U.S. including to Hawaii, as well as to Canada and, most recently, to Ireland.

*"Lighthouse at Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia," by Bill Dillberg*

Dillberg's photos will be on display at the Brandon-Mitchell Gallery in the Spiritual Awareness Center starting Friday, May 2, from 5:30-8pm during the First Friday Art Hop. They will continue to be on display through the end of June.

Dillberg was inspired by his father's interest in photography and as he grew up, he watched his father apply his interest in taking pictures. During his 15 years as a volunteer firefighter, Bill used his camera on the Tulare County Arson Task Force, shooting fire scenes. He also used his position as chief financial officer for Sequoia Beverage Company to photograph the company's special events and functions. In recent years, he was the staff photographer for the *Valley Voice*, as well as taking photographs for several non-profit organizations.

In 2000, Dillberg was appointed to the City of Visalia Parks and Recreation Commission, where he created a photo profile of all the city parks, and with his wife as web designer, established the city parks' website. Included with these photographs are text descriptions of special events conducted by the parks department.

His photos have been featured in many local publications and have been shown at various venues around Visalia, including a semi-permanent montage on display in the foyer of Applebee's Restaurant on Akers Street.

Dillberg currently serves as chairman of the Visalia Parks and Recreation and the Visalia Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. Most of his assignments now are for the local Visalia Parks and Recreation Department and the Arts Consortium.

Some of his photographs can be seen at www.facebook.com/william.dillberg.

The Spiritual Awareness Center is located at 117 S. Locust St. in Visalia, one block south of Main Street. The Brandon-Mitchell Gallery is open during First Friday Art Walks each month and by appointment. Call 625-2441 to arrange to see the show.

# ART

## May

**Through May 16 – Awakening Exhibit – 5:30-8:30pm**
"Awakening Exhibit" at Provost & Pritchard, 130 N. Garden St., Visalia, features artwork by Betty Berk, Toni Best, Jeri Burzin, Laurie Gorman, Linda Hengst, Deborah Nolan, Deanna Saldana and Lynn Ramires.

**Through May 17 – Kings Art Center Annual Spring Show**
An annual open entry exhibit hosted by the Kings County Art League and the Kings Art Center features more than 60 works of art from the community. The display is in the Marcellus Gallery. Gallery hours are Wednesday Through Friday from 11am to 4pm and weekends from noon to 3pm. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

**Through May 17 – Celebrate Pastels**
Recent works by LaVone Stering, an award-winning pastel artist from Visalia are on display at the Members Gallery at the Kings Art Center in Hanford. The works exhibited are landscapes and portraits. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday from 11am to 4pm, and weekends from noon to 3pm. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

**Through May 31 – Tulare Annual Spring Art Show**
The Tulare Palette Club's Annual Spring Art Show is now in the Tulare Historical Museum's Art Gallery. Dozens of artists will display their works in a variety of media including oil, acrylic, encaustic, watercolor, pastel, mixed media, pen, pencil and computer-generated art. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

**Through June 30 – A Box of Chocolates**
This Exeter Courthouse Gallery and Museum spring art exhibit brings together the work of George Tanimoto and Jerry Smith. The Courthouse Gallery is located at 125 South B Street.

**May 2-May 31 – Expressions of Lived Experience Art Show – 5:30-8pm**
The Arts Consortium My Voice Media Center, in collaboration with the Tulare County Department of Mental Health, will host an art reception to kick-off a month-long art exhibition displaying pieces of artwork from individuals with lived experience which depict expressions of lived experience. The art exhibition will be on display throughout May at the Arts Consortium, 400 N. Church St., Visalia. For information, visit tularehhsa.org.

**May 2 – 'In My Backyard' Reception – 6–8 pm**
Suncrest Bank, 400 W. Center St. in Visalia, will host a reception for "In My Backyard," a photography exhibit by Jeri Burzin. The exhibit will be on display Mondays through Fridays from 9am to 5pm through June 27. For exhibit information, visit jeriburzin.com.

**May 3 – First Saturday in Three Rivers – 11am-5pm**
First Saturday in Three Rivers will feature open art studios and art vendors. For information, visit 1stsaturdaytr.com.

**May 4 – Exeter Museum and Courthouse Gallery – 10am-4**
Exeter Courthouse Gallery of the Arts and Museum is open every weekend. The gallery is located at 125 South B Street.

**May 4-5 – By The Water Tower Antique Sale – 9am-5pm**
By The Water Tower Antiques (BTWTA) will host its annual spring sale. American oak and pine furniture, kitchen collectables, glassware, garden items and much more are featured. BTWTA is located on the corner of Hwy 65 and 141 South B Street, in Exeter. For more information, 594-4060.

**May 7-8 – New Jewelry Sale by Masquerade**
Kaweah Delta Health Care Guild will host a fundraiser to purchase patient care equipment for the Kaweah Health Care District. The sale will be held on May 7 from 7am to 4pm, and on May 8 from 6:30am to 4pm, at the Kaweah Delta Medical Center Main Lobby, 400 W. Mineral King.

# THEATER

## May

**May 1-4, 9-11 & 16-18 – Nobody's Perfect**
Encore Theatre Company presents "Nobody's Perfect" at the Encore Theatre, 324 South N Street, Tulare. Advance tickets available. For more information, visit tulareencoretheatre.org or call 686-1300.

**May 9-11, 16-18 & 23-25 – Last of the Boys**
The Visalia Players will present "Last of the Boys" at the Ice House Theater at Race and Santa Fe in Visalia. Evening performances are at 7:30pm on May 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24, and matinees are at 2pm on May 11, 18 and 25. To purchase tickets, visit www.visaliaplayers.org or call 734-3900.

**May 15 – Cutie and The Boxer – 7:30pm**
Stella Artois Independent Film Series and the Visalia Fox Theatre present "Cutie and the Boxer." Tickets, $6-$8, are available at the box office or foxvisalia.com.

**May 17 – TCOE Slick Rock Film Festival**
The Slick Rock Student Film Festival is Central California's premier film competition for middle and high school students The Awards Ceremony and Film Festival will be held at the Visalia Fox Theatre.

Treat Mom to Brunch this Mother's Day
Sunday, May 11th • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
The Southern Pacific Depot Restaurant
Reservations (559) 732-8611
www.depotvisalia.com
207 East Oak Avenue, Visalia

Henry Salazars Fresh Mex Grill
Party Trays, Catering, Special Occasions!
Downtown Visalia
123 W Main St
559-741-7060

# Johnny Cash Tribute Show Comes to Lindsay Community Theater May 10

The Johnny Cash Tribute Show featuring James Garner will come to the Lindsay Community Theater for a 7:30pm show on May 10. Garner's show celebrates the life and music of the legendary "Man in Black" with hits like "Folsom Prison Blues," "I Walk the Line" and "Ring of Fire."

*James Garner as Johnny Cash*

With strong conviction and stunning accuracy, Garner and his band perform Cash's music and incorporate historical accounts and personal anecdotes about this beloved singing storyteller. The show is a fun, toe-tapping trip down memory lane honoring Cash's life and the boom-chicka-boom sound of his longtime backing band, the Tennessee Three.

The Johnny Cash Tribute Show is the last show in the 2013-14 concert series at the Lindsay Community Theater. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door, and available at lindsaycommunitytheater.com. For more information, call 284-2223 or 647-6577.

The Lindsay Community Theater's 2014-15 season will include country singer Randy Sharp, the Celebrant Singers, Joni Morris' Tribute to Patsy Cline, Tempest Celtic Rock, The California Melody Boys, and western singer Juni Fisher.

# ImagineU Children's Museum Offers Saturday Science Adventures

Professor Toy and drummer Eric Anderson will be leading fun-filled adventures during Science Saturdays at 1pm at ImagineU Children's Museum in May.

*Eric Anderson*

**MAY 3 — LEARN THE SCIENCE BEHIND GUM!**

According to *The Guinness Book of World Records*, the biggest bubble gum bubble was roughly the size of an extra large pizza. Professor Toy will help children create their own bubble gum and get a taste to take home and enjoy. Science lessons will include sanitation, the science of chewing and the history of gum.

**MAY 10 — THE SCIENCE OF DRUMMING**

Eric Anderson of Anderson's Percussive Services will have children explore sound vibration and the timbre (different sound qualities) of drumsticks and five-gallon buckets. The children will tap a pitchfork and then place it in a bucket of water so they can see the results. Then they will explore how one object (first the sticks, then the buckets) actually posses different timbres based on the way they can or cannot vibrate.

**MAY 17 — WIRED SCIENCE**

Children will enter the shocking and electric world of Wired Science. Professor Toy will show them how to create a giant circuit using themselves as the conductor. They'll also explore stationary static electricity, learn about test circuits and LED lights.

ImagineU is located at 700 E. Main St., Visalia. It is open Wednesday through Friday from 10am to 4pm, and Saturday from noon to 4pm. Admission is $5 for adults and children 2 and over. Children under 2 are free.

For more information, call 733-5975 or go to www.imagineumuseum.com.

# KIDS

**May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 – Bilingual Story Time – 1:15pm**
Every Thursday, Tulare Public Library hosts a bilingual family story time in the Kids' Space. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

**May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 – Preschool Story-time – 11:15am**
Every Friday, Preschool Story-time is held at Tulare Public Library in the Kids' Space. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

**May 2 – YA Book Club–6pm**
On the First Friday of each month, the YA Book Club meets at the Tulare Public Library, Charter Room. "Stargirl" by Jerry Spinelli will be discussed. To register for book clubs call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

**May 6, 7 & 20 – Yu-Gi-Oh – 5-6pm**
Young adults ages 10-19, are invited to sharpen their Yu-Gi-Oh strategy skills and then play in the tournament from 5-7p.m.

*"Yokohl Gate," by Jeri Burzin.*

# Suncrest Bank to Host 'In My Backyard' Photography Exhibit

JERI BURZIN

Suncrest Bank, which has joined the group of Visalia businesses embracing and supporting the arts, is hosting Main Gallery artists with changing art exhibits every two months. "In My Backyard," a photography exhibit that reflects the wonders of our Central Valley, opens on May 2.

Years ago, I began taking photographs when I travelled on vacation and slowly began to realize that my real challenge was to see the beauty that surrounded me every day. My focus began to gradually change to capturing what was special "In My Backyard."

In this exhibit you will see images of the Giant Sequoia trees, which grow to be the largest trees in the world. They live in Sequoia National Park, literally in our backyard about one hour from Visalia. The park is only one of two places where the Sequoias grow. The Mineral King area is unique in its own right and the image of the Kaweah Oaks Bridge is taken seven miles up the Mineral King Road, a winding and difficult road to travel.

Yokohl Valley in springtime is often a colorful palette and when the conditions are right, there are carpets of flowers as pictured in the Yokohl Gate and Yokohl fence images. The wildflowers can be breathtaking and the ride up to Springville shouldn't be missed. On the way to Yokohl Valley, one may drive through Exeter, our neighboring town which is full of wonderful murals and side alleys which caught my eye. Go up Rocky Hill Road in Exeter, and you may see the "Peek a Boo" cows that spoke to me.

Three Rivers, our lovely neighbor, and the Salt Creek images were taken on the Bureau of Land Management Trail (BLM) a few years ago when we had more rain. Most days you will encounter people hiking, mountain biking and viewing wildflowers in season. The Blossom Trail in Fresno goes for about 60 miles and comes alive in March for a few short weeks. Then the Fruit Trail takes over and again one can see a beautiful array of colors that belong to the abundant fruit that grows here, such as the grapes grown at Fresno State. The abundance of our valley is also reflected in the local farmers markets which offer a wide variety of fruits and vegetables that change with the seasons and pictured in the pumpkins and squash blossom images.

I hope you enjoy this journey through "My Backyard" and discover for yourself what new and wonderful sights await you in your backyard.

Suncrest Bank is at 400 W. Center St., Visalia. A reception will be held during First Friday, from 6-8pm on May 2. The exhibition can be seen 9am to 5pm weekdays through June 27. For more information, email jeriburzin@clearwire.net, call 967-8635 or visit www.jeriburzin.com.

**NEXT DEADLINE: 8 MAY 2014**

## Saddle Pals to Join Sourdough Slim for Return to Mavericks on Friday, May 16

Sourdough Slim, the last of the great vaudeville showmen, will bring his musical act and zany deadpan humor back to Mavericks Coffee House in Visalia for a 7pm show on Friday, May 16. Slim will be joined for the first time at Mavericks by his equally talented, but more sane, Saddle Pals.

*Sourdough Slim and His Saddle Pals*

Sourdough Slim has played at big venues across America including Carnegie Hall. Now he's shooting for the big time at Mavericks. He plays the accordion, harmonica, guitar and ukulele, yodels, does rope tricks and dances a jig, all at the same time, without a net – well almost.

Tickets are $25 and available at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia, or by calling 624-1400.

## Annual Garden Walk, Home Gardening Festival Both Set for May 10 in Exeter

Exeter, famous for its murals and known as one of America's Prettiest Painted Places, is hosting "Full Bloom 2014," the 11th Annual Full Bloom Garden Walk on Saturday, May 10, from 9am to 2pm. Visitors are invited to explore five beautiful and unique private gardens in and around the Exeter area.

Refreshments will be hosted by Exeter's 2012 Business of the Year, By the Water Tower Antiques, in its lovely Victorian garden at 141 South B Street.

Tickets are $20 in advance, and available at the Exeter Chamber of Commerce and at By the Water Tower Antiques. Tickets will also be available the day of the event at By the Water Tower Antiques. Sponsors include C-Thru Window Cleaning, Garrett German and 20/20 Financial Advisers of Exeter.

On the same day, Tulare & Kings Master Gardeners will present their "Home Gardening Festival" in Exeter's Joyner Park, on Pine Street between B and C Streets, 10am-2pm. Admission is free.

Visit the Exeter Chamber of Commerce at 101 W. Pine St., Exeter; call 592-2919; email chamber@exeterchamber.com; or visit www.exeterchamber.com.

## Oak Ridge Boys

Continued from p. 17

In 2011, they re-recorded a 30th anniversary version of "Elvira" for a Cracker Barrel Old Country Store project.

The group has scored 12 gold, three platinum, and one double-platinum album – plus one double-platinum single – and had more than a dozen national number one singles and over 30 top ten hits.

For tickets ($49-$99) or more information, visit www.foxvisalia.org or call 625-1369.

## Cellar Door

Continued from p. 19

released their sophomore album, "Dunes," which is more synthesizer-heavy than their past work, making for an even more kinetic live show. Their naturalistic-pop pulls equally from indie-rock influences of the past, while tonally landing amongst the best of the modern. Lately, their audiences have gotten bigger and the big festivals are still calling for the band.

Fresno indie rock band Rogues will open the night, making their Cellar Door debut. Tickets for the 21+ show are $8.

## 'Last of the Boys'

Continued from p. 18

"There is a mystical element that is larger than one person's imagination," added co-director Irene Morse.

On Sunday, May 18th, after the matinee, "Back Stage at the Ice House" will be hosted by Sharon DeCoux, a veteran Visalia Player. Audience members will have an opportunity for a behind the scenes look at the show and the opportunity to ask questions and interact with cast and crew.

"Last of the Boys" runs for three weekends at the Ice House Theater at Race and Santa Fe in Visalia. Evening performances are at 7:30pm on May 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24, and matinees are at 2pm on May 11, 18 and 25. Note: The show contains adult language and the sounds of war. "Last of the Boys" is performed without an intermission.

To purchase tickets, visit www.visaliaplayers.org or "Visalia Community Players" on Facebook, or call 734-3900.

## Arts Visalia

Continued from p. 18

in Japan serving on General MacArthur's staff. In 1950 they were married and moved to the United States upon Jim's discharge. They had two children, Bill and Grace. Many folks locally will know her son Bill as the former Assistant District Attorney in Tulare County and as a pastor at Gateway Church.

"Painting with Paper" will be on display at Arts Visalia from April 30 through May 30th with an opening reception to be held on the evening of Friday, May 2nd from 6-8pm. Arts Visalia is located in downtown Visalia at 214 E. Oak Ave. and is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 5:30pm. For more information, visit www.artsvisalia.org or call 739-0905.

*Kevin Bowman is the director of Arts Visalia and an instructor of art at College of the Sequoias.*